

Black Ribbon Day Resolution Adopted By The House of Commons

For Immediate Release

NOVEMBER 30, 2009

TORONTO, ONTARIO- Member of Parliament for Toronto Centre, **Hon. Bob Rae** introduced a resolution today to recognize August 23rd –**Black Ribbon Day**- as a national Canadian day of remembrance for the millions of victims of totalitarian Communism and Nazism in Europe. The resolution, seconded by Etobicoke Centre MP, **Borys Wrzesnewskyj**, passed with the unanimous consent of all parties.

The resolution –supported by the **Central and Eastern European Council**- recognizes the suffering endured by those Europeans who were repressed and the millions who were murdered by Hitler's Nazi and Stalin's Soviet regimes and the contributions made in Canada by those refugees who were forced to flee their homes because of those regimes.

Black Ribbon Day founder and Acting Chairman of the CEEC, Markus Hess, said that the resolution offers important recognition of the positive effect that these communities had in building the Canada we know today. "The Eastern and Central Europeans who came to Canada, escaping Soviet Communist and Nazi tyranny, have made significant contributions towards building our great nation and ensuring that freedom and democracy prevail over the darkness of tyranny," said Hess.

Award winning filmmaker, **Marcus Kolga** who spearheaded the initiative for the Central and Eastern European Council in Canada, stresses the global significance of the resolution: "it bears great global and historical significance, as it is the first resolution of its kind to be introduced outside of Europe and recognizes formally, for the first time, the terrible legacy of these two tyrannical regimes."

The Central and Eastern European Council of Canada asked all Members of Parliament to support the Black Ribbon Day Resolution. The CEEC is an organization that represents the 3.4 million+ Canadians of Eastern and Central European heritage and includes the Czech, Estonian, Hungarian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Slovak and Ukrainian communities.

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