

RECOGNITION OF THE PONTIC GREEK GENOCIDE AND PROCLAMATION OF MAY 19TH AS PONTIC GREEK GENOCIDE REMEMBRANCE DAY

Ξένες γλώσσες / In English / Επιστήμες, Τέχνες & Πολιτισμός / Ξένες γλώσσες



CANADIAN HELLENIC CONGRESS
ΕΛΛΗΝΟΚΑΝΑΔΙΚΟ ΚΟΓΚΡΕΣΟ
CONGRÈS HELLÉNIQUE CANADIEN

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December 18, 2018

Via electronic mail:

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The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Langevin Block
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

**SUBJECT: RECOGNITION OF THE PONTIC GREEK GENOCIDE AND PROCLAMATION OF MAY 19TH
AS PONTIC GREEK GENOCIDE REMEMBRANCE DAY**

Dear Prime Minister,

We are extremely disappointed with the failure of the Senate of Canada to pass Motion 158, where in the past, the Senate has passed similar motions relating to other genocides. If you recall, we had written to you on March 5, 2017 concerning Motion 158 (copy of letter attached).

The purpose of Motion 158 was to recognise the Genocide of the Pontic Greeks and to condemn any attempt to deny or distort a historical truth as anything less than genocide, a crime against humanity, and to designate May 19th throughout Canada as a day of remembrance for the 353,000 victims.

The Pontic Greek Genocide is one of the darkest moments in mankind's history and one of the heinous crimes against humanity. Many believe this heinous crime was the precursor to the Holocaust committed by the Nazis against Jews, Roma and other peoples during the Second World War.

With this Motion, the Canadian Hellenic community sought justice, not vengeance, for the victims of the Pontic Greek Genocide; we sought acknowledgement and reconciliation. Prime Minister, you and your government often speak of inclusiveness and reconciliations by addressing past evils in our history. The Pontic Greek Genocide is part of our Canadian collective historical memory, like the Armenian Genocide, the Jewish Holocaust, the Rwandan and other genocides.

We pride ourselves as being part of a country that respects justice and human dignity, yet our legislative institutions have failed us. We sought the same recognition as the Senate and the House of Commons afforded to other genocides, including the ones mentioned above.

Prime Minister, May 19th 2019 will mark the 100th anniversary of the Pontic Greek Genocide. We urge you and your government to bring this Motion to the House and pass it. Otherwise your words that Canada is an inclusive country and accepts diversity are an illusion and they serve only certain special-interest groups.



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