



# CANADIAN HELLENIC CONGRESS ΕΛΛΗΝΟΚΑΝΑΔΙΚΟ ΚΟΓΚΡΕΣΟ CONGRÈS HELLÉNIQUE CANADIEN

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*For immediate release*

## **"The City is captured" – May 29, 1453: CHC Statement on the occasion of the 571<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Fall of Constantinople**

**Montreal, May 29, 2024**— The Fall of Constantinople, which took place on May 29, 1453, is one of the most shocking and significant moments in the history of Greece and the wider Hellenism. On this day 571 years ago, the forces of Ottoman Sultan Mehmed II captured the capital of the Byzantine Empire after a 50-day siege.

"The City is captured" is heard uttered from the lips of Greeks, putting an end to a period that marked Greek culture and Orthodoxy. The Fall of Constantinople resulted from a series of political, military and economic factors that contributed to the collapse of the Byzantine Empire.

The Fall of Constantinople marked not only the end of an empire, but also the beginning of a long period of Ottoman rule for the Greek people; the Turkish occupation.

The City of Constantinople, also known as "The Queen of Cities", was the symbol of the Byzantine heritage, cultural prosperity and religious piety of the Greeks. The tragic day of the Fall is one of the saddest for the Greek nation and is deeply engraved in its conscience. The loss of the glorious city caused indescribable sorrow and silent mourning, hurting the hearts of Greeks to this day, bringing tears to the eyes of those who think of its greatness. To this day, Constantinople remains the symbol of Greek history, resistance and hope.

The Fall of Constantinople cannot and must never mean the "fall" from our memory...



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From the CHC National Council/ For information: [chc@chcongress.ca](mailto:chc@chcongress.ca)

***The Canadian Hellenic Congress is a national democratic communal institution that represents, advances, advocates and promotes the interests and concerns of Canadians of Hellenic descent and Hellenism in general. The Congress is the national voice of Hellenes and their communities and/or organizations across Canada.***