



CANADIAN HELLENIC CONGRESS ΕΛΛΗΝΟΚΑΝΑΔΙΚΟ ΚΟΓΚΡΕΣΟ CONGRÈS HELLÉNIQUE CANADIEN

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For immediate release

CHC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

THE 102ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE BURNING OF SMYRNA: 1922-2024

Montreal, September 10, 2024--- September 2024 marks 102 years since the catastrophic Burning of Smyrna; one of the darkest moments in the history of Hellenism – part of a series of deliberate, barbaric genocidal acts by the Turkish government against the Christian populations in the Ottoman Empire dating back to the beginning of the 20th century.

In September 1922, after Turkish armed forces entered Smyrna – a calculated act by the Turkish government to destroy or expel the Greek and any other Christian populations from the over-3,000-year-old Great City – the entire Greek and Armenian quarters of the city were destroyed, forcing the population to flee and seek shelter in Greece and elsewhere. Thousands of Greeks and Armenians were deported into the interior of Anatolia, where many died in harsh and brutal conditions. Historians believe that the number of victims was in the tens to hundreds of thousands, while the number of refugees was over a million.

May the memory of all the victims be eternal...

UPDATE ON THE PETITION CAMPAIGN FOR THE RECOGNITION OF THE GENOCIDE OF THE GREEKS OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE BY THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT

Every year in September, the CHC honours the memory of the victims of the Asia Minor catastrophe. It is our collective duty to strive for the formal recognition of the genocide and it is high time to act in a united fashion to achieve the ultimate tribute to all the victims of the Greek Genocide. By doing so, we will contribute to our historical memory and recognition will serve as a symbolic act to prevent similar crimes against humanity.

True to its commitment and steadfast in its efforts for the recognition of the Genocide of the Greeks of the Ottoman Empire, – as a whole – that is, of Eastern Thrace, Asia Minor, and Pontos, by the Canadian government, the CHC launched a petition campaign in April – in both paper and electronic versions – to be presented to the House of Commons. The CHC is pleased to announce that the electronic petition, which was authorised for online publication by MP Emmanuella Lambropoulos (Saint-Laurent), has been certified for presentation to the House of Commons, once Parliament reconvenes for the fall session. The paper petition will follow a parallel process, which the CHC will coordinate with MPs Emmanuella Lambropoulos and Annie Koutrakis (Vimy) – co-chairs of the Canada-Hellenic Republic Parliamentary Friendship Group.

The CHC thanks all organisations, individuals and media across Canada who supported the petition.

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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.