

Proclamation

Greek Pontian Genocide Remembrance Day

May 19, 2021

WHEREAS Greek-Canadian communities across Canada will recognize the anniversary of the Greek Pontian Genocide of 1914.

In 1914, the Ottoman government issued a decree to remove the Greek population from their ancestral and historic homeland of Pontus, an area that had been home to the Greek Pontians since the time of Homer around 800 BCE. In the span of a few years after the decree was issued, more than 350,000 Greek Pontians were exterminated and thousands were forced to flee to neighbouring countries.

In 2016, City Council passed a Motion to recognize the Pontian Genocide, and to honour the memory of the men, women and children who have died as a result.

The City of Toronto is dedicated to promoting equity, human rights and safety for all residents, while working to make the world a safer and better place. As we recognize this time in history, we also recognize that much work still needs to be done to achieve peace in the world. We are committed to protecting the human rights and dignity of all people by creating a more just society for future generations.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Mayor John Tory, on behalf of Toronto City Council, do hereby proclaim **May 19, 2021** as "**Greek Pontian Genocide Remembrance Day**" in the City of Toronto.



John Tory
Mayor of Toronto