



CANADIAN HELLENIC CONGRESS
ΕΛΛΗΝΟΚΑΝΑΔΙΚΟ ΚΟΓΚΡΕΣΟ
CONGRÈS HELLÉNIQUE CANADIEN

1220, rue de Beauharnois, Suite 109, Montréal (QC) H4N 1J5

chc@chcongress.ca – www.chcongress.ca

Montreal, June 6, 2022

**NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON
THE GENOCIDE OF THE GREEKS OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE**

-INVITATION-

In 2012, the Canadian Hellenic Congress (CHC), through internal consultation, developed a policy to advance and pursue within Canada the recognition of the Greek Genocide in the Ottoman Empire as whole.

While the CHC's policy was and remains to have the Genocide of the Greeks in Eastern Thrace, Asia Minor and Pontos recognised as a whole, for historical reasons, the emphasis had been shifted, here in Canada, to pursuing a partial recognition of the genocide, namely the Pontian Greek Genocide or a variation thereof.

This approach is not unique to Canada as other jurisdictions, except for Armenia, had and have placed the emphasis on recognising a partial genocide, namely the Greek Pontian or other variations such, Pontian Greek, or Pontic Greeks.

Throughout the world, numerous governments and legislative assemblies enacted legislation, passed resolutions and issued declarations recognising only the genocide of the Greeks of Pontos, while side stepping the genocide of the remaining Greeks in the Ottoman Empire. Even the International Associations of Genocide Scholars in its 2007 resolution did not embrace the totality of the Greek Genocide, like it did for the Armenian Genocide. Instead it focused on geographical segmentation, that is, Pontian and Anatolian Greeks.

In view of the worldwide historical precedents, the CHC continued along these lines, as well as, followed the conditions set in Canada by various decision-makers and pursued a partial recognition. Within this framework, the CHC followed a strategy of advancing and promoting the recognition of the Greek Genocide (Pontian Greek Genocide) within Canada, targeting municipalities, provinces, and the Federal government. In the span of few years, 13 Canadian municipalities recognised the Pontian Greek Genocide and declared May 19th as a day of remembrance. During the same period, the CHC's initiative was taken up by the Canadian Senate. In December 2016, Senators Pana Merchant and Leo Housakos tabled Motion 158 calling upon the Government of Canada to recognise the Genocide of the Pontian Greeks and to designate May 19th every year thereafter as a day of Remembrance. After debate and procedural delays, the motion was defeated on November 28, 2018.

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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.



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June 6, 2022 – Invitation; CHC Genocide National Consultation

Similarly, on the provincial front, Bill 97; an Act to proclaim April as Genocide Awareness, Commemoration, Prevention and Education Month was introduced in the Ontario Legislative Assembly, on April 2nd 2019, by Mr. Aris Babikian, MPP for Scarborough–Agincourt. The Bill dealt with the recognition of 7 genocides, including that of the Pontian Greeks. Although Bill 97 received first and second reading, due to the COVID-19 shutdown and later the dissolution of Ontario Parliament, it was not passed.

The CHC has conducted a post-mortem of its strategy, as well as, further research and has taken into account the comments of certain decision-makers that the recognition of the Pontian Greek Genocide was not inclusive and therefore, the partial recognition does not do justice to all the other Greeks that were exterminated by the Ottoman and Kemalist forces. It should be noted that our compatriots in Australia are pursuing the recognition of the Greek Genocide.

Based on the findings of the post-mortem, the CHC has concluded that we must do justice to all the victims of the genocide by revising our strategy to focus on our global policy for the recognition of the Genocide of all Greeks of the Ottoman Empire, as a whole.

Before the CHC finalises its revised strategy, it wants to hear from you.

We have scheduled a Zoom meeting for Monday, June 27, 2022, at 7:30 p.m. If you or your organisation are interested in participating in this consultation, please register with us by providing your full name, organisation and email address by Friday, June 24, 2022. The link to the Zoom consultation will be sent to you Sunday evening, June 26th.

All communications should be sent to: georgemanios@gmail.com.

We look forward to participation. Please make sure you register.

Sincerely,

Dr. Theodore Halatsis
President

George Manios
Executive Vice-President
Genocide Committee Chairman

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