



www.internmentcanada.ca

For immediate release

CFWWIRF REPRESENTATIVES VISIT CANADIAN MUSEUM FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Winnipeg, Manitoba (December 9, 2014) - On Sunday, December 7, 2014, two members of the Endowment Council (EC) of the Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund (CFWWIRF) visited the Canadian Museum for Human Rights (CMHR) in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Ivan Grbesic, the Chair of the EC, and Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk, a representative of the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association on the EC, spent the better part of the day carefully reviewing the contents of each of the museum's ten core galleries. Their review focused on how much information relating to Canada's first national internment operations of 1914 to 1920 is found in the current exhibits.

In general, this Canadian story has not been given sufficient attention in this taxpayer funded museum. What is included is intermingled with the internment operations of the Second World War, making it difficult for the average visitor to appreciate just how extensive the negative impact of the First World War internment operations was on many different ethno-cultural communities. While the large scale images of internees are impressive and the digital floor stations include some text and a few photos, visitors to the "Canadian Journeys" gallery could easily miss learning about what happened as no story niche is dedicated to this episode in Canadian history. Also, a large scale map neglects to include the internee receiving stations that existed at Toronto, Niagara Falls, Sault Ste. Marie, Montreal, and, ironically, Winnipeg. A story niche discussing the enfranchisement of women in Canada in 1917 fails to mention that this occurred even as "enemy aliens" were losing their right to vote. The feature film in this gallery mentions Japanese internment in the Second World War and the use of the *War Measures Act* during the crisis in Quebec in 1970 yet fails to treat First World War internment measures.

The Chair stated: "It is unfortunate that when our Endowment Council offered the CMHR an opportunity to engage and collaborate to ensure that this

fundamentally Canadian story about an injustice that affected many communities, including Ukrainians, Germans, Croatians, Poles, Italians, Bulgarians, Serbians, Hungarians, Russians, Jews, Slovaks, Slovenes, Czechs, Armenians, Alevi Kurds, Turks and Romanians, among others, and was resolved following a redress campaign that took more than two decades to secure recognition and symbolic restitution, would be given such short shrift in a national museum." He added: "There seems to be more than sufficient space within the CMHR to still include a major exhibit on this relatively unknown chapter in our national history. We are prepared to meet and work with the CMHR curators to achieve this result."

The members of the CFWWIRF postponed their earlier scheduled visit to the CMHR due to the delay in the opening of all of the museum's galleries.

For more information about this media release, contact Ivan Grbesic, Chair of the CFWWIRF at 416-869-5229.

About CFWWIRF

The Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund (CFWWIRF) was established to support projects that commemorate and recognize the experiences of all of the ethno-cultural communities affected by Canada's first national internment operations of 1914 to 1920.

For more information on the Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund contact the Program Manager, Andrea Malysh, toll free at 1-866-288-7931.

www.internmentcanada.ca

[LIKE us on Facebook](#)

[Follow us on Twitter @InternmentCda](#)