



BLACK2018 RIBBONDAY AUGUST 23

Press Release

August 23, 2018

OTTAWA - In November 2009, Canada's Parliament unanimously passed a resolution to establish an annual Canadian Day of Remembrance for the victims of Nazi and Soviet Communist crimes on August 23, called "Black Ribbon Day", which coincides with the anniversary of the signing of the infamous pact between the Nazi and Soviet Communist regimes.

"As Russia continues to actively manipulate history by rehabilitating Stalin's murderous past and Soviet repression, it is more important today than ever, for all Canadians to recognize the terror and suffering inflicted upon millions of Europeans during the last century under Nazi, Soviet and Communist regimes," said Central and Eastern European Council President, Andris Kesteris. "The signing of the Molotov-Ribbentrop friendship pact, between Hitler and Stalin, unleashed horrendous terror and Black Ribbon Day ensures that we never forget that fact."

On behalf of the Central and Eastern European Council (CEEC) and its constituent communities, we invite and encourage all Canadians to participate in a Black Ribbon Day commemoration. The CEEC represents the interests of 4 million Canadians of Central and Eastern European heritage.

During this year's ceremonies, our communities will show support for specific salient regional concerns, including:

- support for Canada's continued strong leadership within NATO and Operation Reassurance;
- increased defensive assistance to Ukraine;
- hybrid and cyberwarfare which threatens to undermine traditional democratic values.

Please join us at the Ottawa Black Ribbon Commemoration in remembrance of the millions of victims of crimes against humanity.

Invitation (Ceremony September 5) and Resolution of Parliament attached.