



The Asper Foundation

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April 11, 2003

Mr. Paul M. Grod &
Mr. Andrew Hladyshevsky, Q.C.
Ukrainian Canadian Congress
456 Main Street
Winnipeg, MB R3B 1B6

Dear Paul & Andrew,

Re: Canadian Museum for Human Rights (CMHR)

Thank you for your letter to Mr. Israel Asper of March 31, 2003, which was followed up with a personal phone discussion on April 7, 2003. We understand that you wish to support the development of an all-inclusive Canadian genocide museum in Canada and we certainly encourage you to do so. As you are aware, the CMHR goes well beyond a genocide museum. The CMHR's objective is to recognize and celebrate human rights as the foundation for human equality, dignity and freedom.

As requested, I wish to address the four concerns raised in your letter.

1. We wish to point out that our museum proposal acknowledges the Ukrainian Famine/Genocide of 1932-1933. We recognize and will include in the CMHR this Famine/Genocide in which over 7 million people were starved to death. We further agree that this genocide will be featured very clearly, distinctly and permanently in the CMHR. We will work with your organization to ensure that this is accomplished. You may wish to identify the appropriate historians and other resources to begin this process.
2. We regret the omission in the "Human Rights in Canada: A Timeline of Events" of the Internment of Ukrainian Canadians during the First World War and agree that it should be included. To this end, our proposal document has been revised to include this important part of Canadian history. Please be assured that it will be included as part of "The Canadian Stories Gallery". A revised Volume I: Proposal will be sent to you next week which shows this inclusion. Again, the support of your organization in assisting us tell this history would be appreciated.

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3. We recognize that the Ukrainian people were victims of the Nazis and will portray this historical fact. The intent of the Museum is not to single out any one group but portray the human costs when human rights are abused. As discussed, the Museum will portray and focus on how people can make a difference. For example, of the 19,706 "Righteous Among the Nations" as identified by Yad Vashem, Israel's Memorial to the Holocaust, almost 10% or 1,881 are of Ukrainian descent. The fourth largest of any country or ethnic origin.
4. On the governance issue, as shown in our proposal, a national Board of Trustees will govern the Museum. This Board will include representatives of the Government of Canada, the Province of Manitoba, the City of Winnipeg and the Friends of the Museum, based on their percentage contribution of the initial capital requirements of the museum. As you are aware, the Friends of the Museum intends to raise 30% of the capital requirements or \$60 million. Accordingly, the Friends organization will appoint the nominees on a pro-rata basis to the Board of Trustees of the Museum. Our intent as you know, is to have founding members who will form the permanent governing body of the Friends organization. We hope that the UCC will play a role, not only as a founding member of Friends but will also assist in other fundraising objectives as outlined in items 1 and 2 above.

Please note, as discussed on April 10th, the governance issues are subject to change and would depend on the wishes of the three levels of government, the Forks Board and the Friends of the Museum.

I trust that this response will assist us in moving forward to have you as a partner in this endeavour. In my letter to you of January 6th, 2003, I reiterated Dr. Israel Asper's personal commitment to continue to work with the Ukrainian Canadian Congress in telling its history of human rights abuses in Canada and Ukraine and to work with your representative towards this objective. Once again, please let me confirm this commitment.

If you are satisfied that we can move forward, we would appreciate a letter of support by Friday, April 11, 2003, as we wish to include it in our media package for the announcement scheduled for April 17th. We hope as well, that you and your representatives will join us in this historic announcement.

I look forward to your early response.

Sincerely,



Moe Levy
Executive Director
ML/hm
Enc.

Copy: Eugene Czolij, I. H. Asper, Gail Asper

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