

Dear Minister:

Thousands of Ukrainians and other Europeans were imprisoned as "enemy aliens" during Canada's first national internment operations of 1914-1920 not because of any wrong they had done but only because of who they were, where they had come from. Forced to do heavy labour for the profit of their jailers, stripped of what little wealth they had, disenfranchized, and subjected to many other state-sanctioned indignities, their story was once all but forgotten.

From the mid-1980s the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association and its supporters campaigned to have the Government of Canada recognize this episode in Canadian history and offer symbolic restitution. This was finally accomplished following passage of *Bill C 331 - The Internment of Persons of Ukrainian Origin Recognition Act*.

Inexplicably, the Canadian Museum for Human Rights does not intend to include any serious reference to Canada's first national internment operations in this taxpayer-funded national museum. That is unacceptable! There are over 1.2 million Canadians of Ukrainian heritage and many hundreds of thousands of others from communities that were directly affected by the War Measures Act and these internment operations. We want in!

We call upon you to create an independent advisory committee to determine the content of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, ensuring that this body is truly representative of the Canadian population, inclusive, fair-minded and non-partisan. We believe that Canadian stories need to be told in this new Canadian museum.

Thank you.

Signature



OHMS

To

The Honourable James Moore, MP
Minister of Canadian Heritage

House of Commons

Ottawa, Ontario

K1A 0A6

THIS TIME WE WANT IN!

