

Ongoing propaganda campaigns led by the right-wing émigré groups

Axis of Hate: Canada's anticommunist monument

On Black Ribbon Day 2013, PM Stephen Harper declared a federal gift of prime land in Ottawa's parliamentary precinct, plus \$1.5 million, for an anticommunist monument led by 'Tribute to Liberty' (TTL). Federal funding for the monument, now under construction, has been increased to \$2 million. With support from the Conservative, Liberal, NDP and Green parties, the "Memorial to the Victims of Communism" is opposed by 77% of Canada's public (27% 'strongly'), while only 23% support it (4% 'strongly').¹

Six of TTL's nine Board of Directors² represent far-right East European groups discussed in this issue:

- **Markus Hess**, president, **Estonian Central Council** (pp.28-31); executive member, **Estonian World Council**; founder, **International Black Ribbon Day Committee**; chairman, **Central and Eastern European Council**.
- **Paul Grod**, president., **World Ukrainian Congress**; former president, **Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC)**; and **Ukrainian Youth Association**.
- **Alide Forstmanis**, former president, **Latvian National Federation in Canada** and treasurer/secretary, **Black Ribbon Day** (Kitchener-Waterloo).
- **Ludwik Klimkowski**, vice president, **Canadian Polish Congress (CPC)**.
- **Teresa Berezowski**, former president, **CPC**.
- **Robert Tmej**, activist/organizer, **Czech and Slovak Association of Canada**.

Group donors: While the above groups all helped fund the TTL monument, its largest donors are the **CPC** (\$25-\$50,000) and the **UCC** (\$25,000). Other donor groups with fascist-

linked origins include the **Latvian National Federation of Canada**, the **League of Ukrainian Canadians (LUC)** and **LUC Women**, and the **Lithuanian Canadian Community**.

State Donors

Country	Donations ³
Canada	\$2,000,000
Hungary	\$130,000
Estonia	\$25 - 50,000
Georgia	\$25 - 50,000
Taiwan	\$35,000
Croatia	\$26,000
Czech Rep.	\$22,000
Latvia	\$17,000

Community Donors

TTL lists these 'communities'⁴ as its major funders:

Ukrainian	\$509,000
Canadian	\$211,000
Latvian	\$193,000
Vietnamese	\$175,000
Polish	\$144,000
Croatian	\$142,000
Hungarian	\$131,000
Czech	\$100,000
Korean	\$90,000
Estonian	\$59,000
Czechoslovak	\$41,000
Lithuanian	\$26,053

The Black Book of Disinformation

The TTL's stated purpose is to "commemorate over 100 million victims of Communist terror."⁵ This exaggerates a wildly-inflated 94-million death toll in the TTL's far-right bible, *The Black Book of Communism*. This hatefilled tome has been criticized as nonsense by many scholars including Noam Chomsky. Even some of its own coauthors later denounced its figures as absurd. William Blum, a former US State Department staffer turned antiwar author, ridiculed the book's use by the far-right to spread hateful lies:

During his ... election campaign, Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi declared that communists in Mao's China boiled babies to make fertilizer. He defended his remark by citing: *The Black Book of Communism*, a "history" of communism ... that is to the study of communism as "The Protocols of the Elders of Zionism" is to Judaism, or the collected statements of George W. Bush are to understanding why we are fighting in Iraq.⁶

Quite appropriately, the jury selecting a designer for Ottawa's monument included David Frum (son of CBC's Barbara Frum). As George W. Bush's speechwriter, he coined the "Axis-of-Evil" catchphrase. Frum initially formulated this epithet for America's enemies as "The Axis of Hate."

References and notes

1. "Victims of Communism: Resounding Thumbs Down on what is considered a wasteful and unnecessary project," EKOS survey, May 22, 2015. bit.ly/EKOS-VOC
2. Board of Directors, TTL website bit.ly/TTLbod
3. "Our Donors," TTL website. bit.ly/TTL-D
Ranges are from "Our Donors" while other figures, from various reports by organizations, are corrected for inflation and rounded to nearest \$1000.
4. *Lithuanian Canadian News*, Mar. 31, 2020. bit.ly/LCN-TTL
5. *TTL Newsletter*, Winter 2016. bit.ly/TTL16
6. William Blum, "Some Things You Need To Know Before the World Ends," *Anti-Empire Report*, April 22, 2006. bit.ly/BlumAER

Magnitsky laws: Waging economic war against Russia

Magnitsky Laws, passed in the US in 2012 and unanimously by Canadian MPs in 2017, are the brainchild of US-born Bill Browder, a global financier and "dear friend" of Finance Minister, Chrystia Freeland. Browder, "convicted of fraud" and "large-scale tax evasion" by Russian courts, calls Freeland the "moral leadership" behind his Magnitsky crusade. Browder and his accountant, Sergei Magnitsky, created an illegal "tax-avoidance scheme" allowing them and their ultrarich clients to acquire Russian state assets. In the "wholesale pillaging of Russia" in the 1990s, says hedge-fund manager Alex Krainer, several hundred billion dollars were "taken out of Russia, much of it illegally."²

Krainer is the author of *Grand Deception: The Truth about Bill Browder, the Magnitsky Act, and Anti-Russian Sanctions*, 2018. While Magnitsky laws are disguised as an anti-corruption "crusade for human rights," their real goal, he explains, is to "impede the operation of international laws and institutions through which Russian authorities might in-

vestigate ... crimes and initiate lawsuits" against those who pilfered Russia's state coffers. After setting up Browder's tax evasion scam, Magnitsky was arrested and died in a Russian prison while awaiting trial in 2009.³

Magnitsky Laws have passed in Estonia, 2016; Lithuania, 2017; Latvia, 2018; and in the UK, 2017, and two of its corporate tax havens (Gibraltar and Jersey, 2018). Kosovo, created by NATO after its 1999 war on Yugoslavia, passed Magnitsky laws in 2020.⁴

Canadian MPs were lobbied to pass Magnitsky Laws by the Central and Eastern European Council (CEEC).⁵

References

1. Marcus Kolga (CEEC pres.), "Chrystia Freeland should have remained Minister of Foreign Affairs," *Macleans*, Nov. 21, 2019. bit.ly/BrowFree
2. Magnitsky Act Comes to Canada, Oct. 15, 2017. bit.ly/MagLaws
3. *Ibid*.
4. Magnitsky Legislation bit.ly/wikiMagnitsky
5. Markus Kolga, "Canadians call on Parliament to adopt 'Magnitsky' legislation," CEEC media statement, May 20, 2016. bit.ly/CEEC-M

One of the highlights of #Davos2019: reconnecting to my dear friend and Magnitsky supporter @cafreeland the Foreign Minister of Canada

Bill Browder 
@Billbrowder
Jan. 24, 2019

