



CANADIAN HELLENIC CONGRESS
ΕΛΛΗΝΟΚΑΝΑΔΙΚΟ ΚΟΓΚΡΕΣΟ
CONGRÈS HELLÉNIQUE CANADIEN

9150 boul. de l'Acadie, Suite 109, Montréal (QC) H4N 2T2
chc@chcongress.ca – www.chcongress.ca

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February 13, 2024

Via electronic mail:

melissa.lantsman@parl.gc.ca

Melissa Lantsman
Member of Parliament for Thornhill
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

**Subject: "Goce Delchev Night" event in Toronto on
February 3, 2024**

Dear Ms. Lantsman,

We are writing in regards to the "Goce Delchev Night" event you recently attended in Toronto, in your capacity as Member of Parliament, on Saturday, February 3, 2024, held by an organisation known as the "United Macedonians Organization of Canada". The "Goce Delchev Night," held annually in Toronto, commemorates Goce Delchev, a revolutionary and national hero of Bulgaria and North Macedonia.

We must bring to your attention two features always present at this particular event. One is the display of a map of a "Greater Macedonia", denoting the expansionist territorial tendencies of the Slavic administration of the ultra-nationalist members of the organisation. The other is the demonstration of the flag, depicting the stylised golden sun – i.e. the Vergina Sun – on a red background. This red flag was proclaimed illegal by the UN Security Council in 1993 (UNSC Res. 817 and 845) and agreed upon as such, by the governments of Greece and North Macedonia on two separate occasions; in the 1995 Interim Accord (Article 2.3) and in the 2018 Prespa Agreement (Article 3). Furthermore, the government of North Macedonia officially banned the use of this flag within the country on August 12, 2019, due to decades of use by the country's ultra-nationalist far-right and Neo-Nazis to antagonise Greeks.

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The Canadian Hellenic Congress is a national democratic communal institution that represents, advances, advocates and promotes the interests and concerns of Canadians of Hellenic descent and Hellenism in general. The Congress is the national voice of Hellenes and their communities and/or organizations across Canada.



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February 13, 2024
Melissa Lantsman, MP – Thornhill

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Ms. Lantsman, we are highly concerned that this community organisation displayed this illegal flag as that of their home country of North Macedonia, instead of the official flag of their republic as recognised by Global Affairs Canada.

Also, and even more disturbing than the flag itself, is the question as to why the organisation deemed it appropriate to also hang an expansionist map on their walls in the presence of a Canadian Member of Parliament, a map that Adolf Hitler previously resurrected in WWII?

The answer is simple: racial hatred and the need to pursue the legitimacy of that community's prevailing ultra-nationalist agenda by any means – including, but not limited to, the taking advantage of a Canadian politician such as you.

However, attacking Hellenism in various forms is not new in Canada. The Greek community has been the recipient of incessant continuously since September 8, 1991, not only from the organisation mentioned above, but also from two other significant organisations within the said community: the Macedonian Human Rights Movement International (MHRMI) and the World Macedonian Congress (WMC) Canada, who hide behind the façade of acting as "benevolent" organisations, when, in fact, they are hate groups.

Ms. Lantsman, the ideal and most logical solution is to ban these two items that are used to promote anti-Hellenism in Canada from any public space, especially from organisations that receive all kinds of financial support from various levels of government via taxpayer funds and, quite ironically, given charitable status by the Canada Revenue Agency.

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In the privacy of their own homes, they can do as they like when it comes to their fascist tendencies and hateful anti-Hellenic rhetoric, but at community functions where Canadian government officials are present, they ought to exercise at least some common human decency and decorum, instead of using a politician for the promotion of their ongoing propaganda.

Your presence at their "Goce Delchev Night" gave credence to the group's ultra-nationalist and anti-Hellenic commitment and drive. Shame!

Sincerely,

Dr. Theodore Halatsis
President

C.c.: The Honourable Pierre Poilievre, MP, Leader of the Official Opposition;

pierre.poilievre@parl.gc.ca

The Honourable Leo Housakos, Senator; Leo.Housakos@sen.parl.gc.ca

Her Excellency Aikaterini Dimaki, Ambassador of the Hellenic Republic to Canada;

gremb.otv@mfa.gr; sec-gremb.otv@mfa.gr

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