



CANADIAN HELLENIC CONGRESS
ΕΛΛΗΝΟΚΑΝΑΔΙΚΟ ΚΟΓΚΡΕΣΟ
CONGRÈS HELLÉNIQUE CANADIEN

1220, rue de Beauharnois, Suite 109, Montréal (QC) H4N 1J5

chc@chcongress.ca – www.chcongress.ca

Montreal, December 5, 2020

Via electronic mail:

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- George Diamantopoulos, President
Hellenic Canada Congress of British Columbia
- Dennis Marinos, President
Hellenic Congress of Quebec
- Andreas Crilis, President
Hellenic Community of Greater Montreal
- Antonis Artemakis, President
Greek Community of Toronto
- Nick Papadopoulos, President
Greek Canadian Community of New Brunswick

Subject: Response to your letter dated November 19, 2020

Gentlemen,

Your letter dated November 19, 2020 – emailed to us on your behalf on November 23, 2020 – is offensive and disrespectful of the Court decision and ignores the basic facts that matters have been settled.

The Canadian Hellenic Congress (CHC) made changes to its 1999 Constitution in order to comply with the new Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (NFPCA), which became law in 2009 and came into force in 2011. You seem to deny the existence of the NFPCA, as well as, the requirements it imposed on organisations such as the CHC.

From 2012 to 2016, the CHC was actively engaged in the constitutional-amendment consultation process, starting with the formation of its Constitutional Committee in 2012. During the consultation process, numerous communications were sent to your organisations, as well as, all member-organisations and members of the National Council to partake in the process and provide input and recommendations. Furthermore, given the NFPCA's requirement to ensure all directors would be elected and not appointed, the CHC's directors at the time were determined to ensure that – while respecting the democratic electoral process – each of the provincial organisations and the communities would have a seat on the National Council once the 2016 Constitution was adopted. Unfortunately, you opted to exclude yourselves from the entire process and falsely claimed that the provincial organisations of British Columbia and Quebec and the three (3) largest community organisations were removed from the CHC's National Council.

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While you rejected the proposals made to you, the Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta provincial organisations recognised and accepted the requirements of the new Act and consequently, their representatives were elected and held seats on the CHC's National Council. The new NFPCA prevails and as such, there can be no turning back to the ex-officio status that you previously enjoyed. The NFPCA is quite specific in that "...it is not permissible to have ex officio directors..." therefore all directors – irrespective of their constituency – must be democratically elected.

Moreover, since 2016 and until the onset of the court case, the CHC had made several offers of resolution and settlement and each time you reneged on those offers even though you had initially agreed to them. Instead you decided to take the CHC to court an action which cost the CHC over \$40,000 in court and legal fees.

On April 14, 2020, the Ontario Superior Court rendered its decision and set a different path from what you had asked for or expected. If you were not satisfied with the Court's outcome, you had the opportunity to go to the Court of Appeal to obtain a more favourable ruling.

You chose not to do so and therefore, must now live with the court ruling's outcome. This is the rule of law and justice, yet you continue to be in denial of this reality. Through disinformation and manipulation of the facts you make demands that are contrary to the NFPCA and the Court decision. The CHC will not be a party to this twisted view of the law, as well as, of judicial rulings.

In addition, your claims with regard to the Quebec Regional Council's (QRC) participation in the November 2019 elections are completely false and unfounded. In fact, no delegates ever presented themselves to any CHC elections through the QRC. This holds for the 2016 elections, as well as, the 2019 elections. In terms of the QRC, the relief ordered in the judge's ruling was limited to a declaration that it was created improperly and without authority. It is public record that the CHC's National Council made such a declaration at its May 17, 2020 meeting and furthermore – although it was not a requirement of the court decision – it unanimously adopted a motion to dissolve the QRC, effective immediately.

The CHC respects the Court's decision and complies with its rulings. On Saturday, November 28, 2020, ninety-nine (99) delegates from the provinces of BC, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec (N.B. constitutional amendments – under the 1999 Constitution – require the presence of seventy-five (75) delegates from three (3) provinces) participated in the in the CHC's 2020 AGM. The delegates met via electronic and teleconference means and unanimously adopted amendments to the 2016 Constitution, as directed by the Court. These amendments included the term of office of the National Council members, therefore setting the date of the next elections for 2022.

You were invited to participate at the CHC's annual General Meetings (AGM) on three separate occasions. However, you and the member-organisations under your domain, choose not to attend. Your failure to participate at this year's AGM shows that you are not prepared to accept the rule of law or abide by judicial rulings, both of which are part and parcel of the core values of Hellenism.

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You say you are acting in the name of Hellenism however, your actions demonstrate you have forgotten the ideals of Hellenism, namely the democratic process, justice and the respect for the rule of law.

Do the honourable thing and be respectful of the decision which you brought upon the CHC and yourselves, at a tremendous cost in human and financial resources to both organisations.

The CHC is not a static organisation; it is an inclusive and dynamic institution that is continuously improving and evolving its structures to accommodate the new needs that have emerged as a result of the demographic changes in the Canadian Hellenic community and the inability of traditional organisations to respond to the new societal demands.

Since its formation, the CHC has always strived, and continues to do so, to find ways to foster more productive and positive relationships with member-organisations, non-member-organisations, as well as, other groups.

The CHC has not lost sight of its original purpose and it continues to strive to bring about integration and accommodation and you can be part of this continuing process. We are offering you the opportunity to have a serious dialogue, which could result in the re-integration and accommodation of old entities such as yourselves that have chosen to remain outside the purview of the CHC family.

This dialogue is predicated upon you respecting and accepting the NFPCA and the Court's decision, adhering to the CHC's democratic process and to the collective decisions of its National Assembly.

We look forward to your positive reply, for the sake of unity and the greater good of Hellenism in Canada!

On behalf of the CHC's National Council,

Dr. Theodore Halatsis
President

Dr. Costas Pappas
VP Administration & Secretary

C.c.:

- Past CHC presidents: Dr. George Tsoukas, Nick Panos, Demetrius Manolakos, George Pitsicoulis, George Manolikakis
- Canadian-Hellenic Media representatives

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