

Dear Mayor and Council,

Thank you for the commitment Langley City has shown to recognizing and supporting the city's diverse communities. We are reaching out to explore the opportunity for Langley City to participate in our commemoration of International Holocaust Remembrance Day (IHRD) on Monday, January 27, 2025. In previous years, municipalities across Metro Vancouver, including Coquitlam, Delta, Surrey, Vancouver, and North Vancouver, have participated in this observance. We would be deeply honored to have your support this year.

We respectfully request a Proclamation in honor of International Holocaust Remembrance Day, as well as the illumination of City Hall (or another municipal building) in yellow to commemorate the day. This observance is part of the World Jewish Congress's annual #WeRemember campaign. With the rise of antisemitism, this campaign plays a crucial role in honoring Holocaust victims and emphasizing the importance of Holocaust education and standing against hatred.

Please find the details of this request below. We are available at any time to answer questions or provide additional information:

- **Name of organization:** Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver
- **Contact name:** Sarah Mackenzie
- **Email:** smackenzie@jewishvancouver.com
- **Other organizations involved:** CIJA, Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre and World Jewish Congress
- **Date of event:** Monday, January 27, 2025
- **Requested date for Proclamation:** Monday, January 27, 2025
- **Requested date for lighting:** Monday, January 27, 2025

Commemoration: In 2005, the U.N. General Assembly designated January 27 as International Holocaust Remembrance Day (IHRD) in honor of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi concentration and death camp, where over six million innocents were systematically murdered during World War II. January 2024 marks the 79th anniversary of Auschwitz-Birkenau's liberation in 1945.

Connection to Canada and the Region: Canada is a refuge for immigrants, refugees, and survivors of persecution and genocide. It stands as a place where people from all backgrounds can learn from one another and share cultures. The U.N. resolution establishing IHRD rejects Holocaust denial (now illegal in Canada) and condemns violence based on religion or ethnicity. IHRD is observed in the U.N. and globally, including by Canada and cities such as Calgary, Ottawa, and Montreal.

In today's world, where antisemitism and hate continue to rise, it is essential that the lessons of the Holocaust remain a part of our collective consciousness to prevent such atrocities from happening again. By joining us in commemorating IHRD, Langley City

would demonstrate its commitment to standing against antisemitism, hate, and genocide alongside the Jewish community and Canadians from all backgrounds.

Additional Information:

- **Other Facilities Requested:** Yes, municipalities across Canada have been invited to illuminate sites such as Vancouver City Hall, BC Place, Calgary Tower, the Manitoba Legislature, National Gallery of Canada, CN Tower, Montreal Olympic Tower, St. John's City Hall, and others.
- **Annual Event:** This is an annual day of remembrance, recognized by the United Nations. We would be grateful if this request could be added to the City's calendar as an annual commemoration.
- **Requested Lighting Color:** Yellow, symbolizing the memorial candles lit in remembrance of all Holocaust victims.
- **Social Media Handles:**
 - Instagram: @jewishvancouver
 - X (formerly Twitter): @jewishvancouver
 - Hashtags: #WeRemember, #NeverAgain, #InternationalHolocaustRemembrance

Thank you for considering our request. We look forward to the possibility of Langley City's participation in honoring International Holocaust Remembrance Day and reinforcing our shared commitment to education, remembrance, and tolerance.

Warm regards,
Sarah Mackenzie
Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver