

CSLA Suggests Options for the National Memorial to Victims of Communism

OTTAWA, 24 February 2015 – The Canadian Society of Landscape Architects (CSLA) respectfully requests that the National Memorial to Victims of Communism site be reconsidered.

The CSLA does not believe that the proposed location, adjacent to the Supreme Court of Canada, is appropriate for this monument, as it sits on the location of the building site of the proposed Federal Court identified in the Long Term Vision and Plan (LTVP) for the Parliamentary and Judicial Precincts. This building would complete the Judicial Triad made up of the Supreme Court of Canada to the North, designed by Ernest Cormier, and the Justice Building to the East, designed by Burritt and Horwood Architects. The monument appears to be designed as a permanent fixture, whereas in this location only a temporary monument should be considered. The LTVP not only shows a building but also indicates underground parking, material handling and a connecting concourse spine in that very location. Clearly, placing any monument at this location would impede the construction of any other future parliamentary or judicial building, and hamper all long-term plans for the area.

The Long Term Vision and Plan (LTVP) for the Parliamentary and Judicial Precincts, prepared by Public Works and Government Services Canada and endorsed by the National Capital Commission, evolved through decades of consultations with leading architects, urban designers, landscape architects and stakeholders. The LTVP does not prescribe a monument on the contested site, but a suitably scaled building.

The CSLA recommends that an alternate site be identified. It is noted that the LeBreton Flats area was considered an appropriate site for the National Holocaust Monument and for the Canadian Firefighters Memorial. If the current location next to the Supreme Court is retained, the CSLA suggests that the monument be re-designed to allow it to be moved at the time of the construction of a parliamentary or judicial building on this site.

About the CSLA

The Canadian Society of Landscape Architects (CSLA) is a professional organization with over 1,900 landscape architects as members represented by provincial and territorial associations. In addition, the CSLA accredits several academic landscape architecture programs across the nation. The CSLA Awards of Excellence Program recognizes outstanding work and the LTVP was the subject of a 2007 CSLA Award of Excellence.

Landscape architects today are engaged in the design, planning and management of urban, rural and natural environments in all Canadian provinces and territories and in many countries worldwide. Canadian landscape architects are well-regarded for their vision, creativity, sensitivity and practicality in all aspects of professional practice, creating unique functional outdoor spaces for our citizens, as well as protecting and enhancing the environment. The CSLA is the organization which gives landscape architects a national voice and, through its provincial component associations, regulates the profession of landscape architecture through licensing or certification of its members.

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