

Friday, 27 February 2015

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister,

The CSLA respectfully requests that the site chosen for the National Memorial to Victims of Communism 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 proposed site is to be chosen, an alternate design should be considered for a temporary monument which could be moved to accommodate future construction on the site.


There is a rising tide of concern across the country regarding the proposed location of the Memorial, adjacent to the Supreme Court of Canada. Architects, urban planners, and landscape architects have raised their concerns about the site. Numerous respected media outlets have joined the Council of Canadians in recommending a second look. The Canadian Society of Landscape Architects shares those concerns.

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.

We hope that you will support the position of many Canadians who believe **the proposed site for the National Memorial to Victims of Communism should be reconsidered.**

Sincerely,



Carol Craig, AALA, FCSLA
President, Canadian Society of Landscape Architects