



Inky Mark, Member of Parliament
Vice Chair, Standing Committee on
Citizenship and Immigration
Dauphin-Swan River-Marquette

**Ukrainian Internment
Redress Resolution**

For Immediate Release

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First step taken to Ukrainian redress

(Ottawa) After 12 years of broken promises the Liberal government finally took the first step towards resolving the issue of redress for Canada's Ukrainian community.

In yesterday's announcement they agreed to an agreement-in-principle that provides an initial payment of \$2.5 million to Canada's Ukrainian community for the purpose of commemoration and education.

This proposal was first brought forward by Inky Mark, M.P. for Dauphin-Swan River-Marquette in 2001 with the tabling of Bill C-331, the Ukrainian Canadian Recognition and Restitution Act. C-331 was subsequently re-tabled in 2002 and then in 2004. It has been debated in the House of Commons and is currently being reviewed by the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage.

Mark explains, "When I was elected as a Member of Parliament, one of my first acts was to consult with Canada's Ukrainian community to draft Bill C-331. It called upon the federal government to: acknowledge that thousands of Ukrainian Canadians were unjustly interned and disenfranchised in Canada during the First World War; provide funding to commemorate the sacrifices made by these Canadians and; to develop educational materials detailing this dark period of Canada's history."

"Finally, after 2 decades of lobbying and 12 years since Jean Chrétien, the former Prime Minister, wrote a letter promising to deal with the issue, this Liberal government has taken the first step towards resolution."

Mark concluded, "A lot of hard work has gone into reaching this first step. The federal government must now continue this work with Canada's Ukrainian community to ensure that this dark history doesn't repeat itself."

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