



Musée Holocauste Montréal
Montreal Holocaust Museum

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Montreal Holocaust Museum Combats Discrimination alongside Survivors and Young Writers on International Remembrance Day

Montreal, Monday, January 22, 2018 - In honour of the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust, the Montreal Holocaust Museum is offering **free admission** and has organized its first-ever **young writers workshop**, on Sunday, January 28. Aspiring young writers (grade 6 and up) are invited to attend a bilingual writing workshop with author, **Monique Polak** at 2 pm. They will have the opportunity to interview Holocaust survivors and produce their own written work based on their stories.

Holocaust Survivors, [Fishel Goldig](#) (in French), [Leon Celemencki](#) (in French), [Elie Dawang](#) (in French), [Daisy Gross](#) (in English), [Leslie Vertes](#) (in English) and [Ted Bolgar](#) (in English) will be speaking with the writing workshop participants on Sunday. Although they have shared their diverse testimonies with thousands of students who visit the Museum each year, this writing workshop will be a new opportunity for them to interact with young visitors on more a personal basis.

“Hearing a Holocaust survivor such as Elie Dawang describe how his non-Jewish neighbours refused to open their doors to him, while the French police rounded up thousands of Parisian Jews, is a powerful reminder about the importance of respect for diversity and inclusion,” said the Museum’s Executive Director, Alice Herscovitch. Sunday’s events at the Museum seek to reinforce the importance of standing united in the face of all forms of prejudice and hatred.

“A major part of the Museum’s mission is to educate youth about their responsibility to be engaged citizens, combatting discrimination in all its forms.” stated Herscovitch. “The lessons that children learn from hearing a survivor’s testimony, relate to issues and forms of prejudice that are all too present today.”

International Holocaust Remembrance Day occurs two days before the first anniversary of Quebec City’s deadly mosque shooting. In this context, the Montreal Holocaust Museum underscores the dangers of all forms of discrimination, including antisemitism and Islamophobia.

About the Montreal Holocaust Museum: The Montreal Holocaust Museum educates people of all ages and backgrounds about the Holocaust, while sensitising the public to the universal perils of antisemitism, racism, hate and indifference. Through its Museum, its commemorative programs and educational initiatives, the Montreal Holocaust Museum promotes respect for diversity and the sanctity of human life.

To meet a Holocaust survivors or set up an interview, please contact: Audrey Licop, Communications and Events Coordinator at 514-345-2605 ext. 3026 // audrey.licop@museeholocauste.ca OR Sarah Fogg, Communications and Events Assistant at 514-345-2605 ext. 3437 // sarah.fogg@museeholocauste.ca





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About January 27: “The resolution declared that the United Nations would designate 27 January — the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp — as an annual International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust, and urged Member States to develop educational programmes to instill the memory of the tragedy in future generations to prevent genocide from occurring again.” ([United Nations](#))

About Monique Polak: “In addition to teaching English and Humanities at Marianopolis College in Montreal, Monique is an active freelance journalist whose work appears frequently in The Montreal Gazette and in Postmedia newspapers across the country.” She has written over 20 novels for young adults, and is a two-time winner of the Quebec Writers’ Federation Prize for Children’s and YA Literature. ([Monique Polak](#))

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