



Musée Holocauste Montréal
Montreal Holocaust Museum

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***The Montreal Holocaust Museum postpones the exhibit
"The World Knew: Jan Karski's Mission for Humanity"***

Montreal, Tuesday, April 17, 2018 - The Montreal Holocaust Museum will postpone its presentation of the exhibit "The World Knew: Jan Karski's Mission for Humanity" and all related activities.

This exhibit, developed by the Polish History Museum in partnership with the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Jan Karski Educational Foundation, was scheduled to be in Montreal from June 6 to August 17, 2018. "*Given the current context, the conditions are not ideal to pay tribute to the memory of Jan Karski*" explained Alice Herscovitch, Executive Director of the Montreal Holocaust Museum.

In 1942, during the Second World War, member of the Polish resistance, Jan Karski travelled across Nazi occupied Europe to warn leaders of the Allied countries about the Holocaust. His mission was planned by the resistance movement of the Polish Underground State, which had its own army, courts, schools and newspapers.

"This form of resistance should be applauded and emulated in countering all those who threaten our rights and freedoms today. However, we are now concerned that the Republic of Poland's memory law prevents us from presenting the history of the Holocaust in all its complexity, with its Polish heroes and collaborators. The law now serves as a means to put pressure on education centers and the media. It is imperative that the application of the law be clearly defined. Our members, including several Polish Holocaust survivors, are very concerned about its scope" added the Museum's director.

Instead, the Montreal Holocaust Museum will present its traveling exhibition "United Against Genocide: Understand, Question, Prevent". The exhibition presents rare historical documents, archival photographs, interviews with experts and survivors' testimonies. The exhibition is divided into six themes: the stages of genocide; transmitting the memory of genocide; the quest for justice; the role of the media before, during and after a genocide; resistance during a genocide; an examination of four contemporary cases of escalating violence and what we can do to prevent genocide.

The Montreal Holocaust Museum informs and educates people of all ages and backgrounds about the Holocaust, as well as antisemitism, racism, hatred and indifference. Through its permanent exhibit, commemorative programs and educational initiatives, the Museum promotes our collective responsibility to respect the diversity and sanctity of all human life.

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