



Musée Holocauste Montréal
Montreal Holocaust Museum

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Montrealers Commemorate 80th Anniversary of Kristallnacht

Montréal, QC, October 22, 2018 – The Montreal Holocaust Museum will commemorate Kristallnacht, the November 1938 pogrom also known as the Night of Broken Glass, on **Sunday, November 11, 2018 at 5:00 pm** at the Museum (5151 Côte-Ste-Catherine Road). The commemoration will take place alongside survivors who rebuilt their lives in Montreal after the Holocaust, Cantor Gideon Zelermyer and the Shaar Hashomayim Synagogue choir.

This year's commemoration marks 80 years since Kristallnacht, and the intensification of a regime of terror carried out against Jews of the Third Reich. The 2018 commemoration of Kristallnacht also coincides with Remembrance Day on November 11th. Given the additional significance of the day, **Willie Glaser**, a World War II veteran, Holocaust survivor and Kristallnacht witness will light a commemorative candle and present his video testimony.

Willie was born in Fuerth, Germany and was 17 years old when he witnessed Kristallnacht in Munich. On that same day, he returned to his hometown, and saw the destruction of several synagogues and the terrorizing of Jewish people. One week before the outbreak of the war, he obtained a visa and fled to Belfast, Northern Ireland. He volunteered for the 1st Polish Armoured Division in 1941. His six-year military career saw him participate in the Normandy landings as well as the liberation of France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany. After the war, his regiment policed Displaced Persons camps in northern Germany, where he was assigned to find hidden members of the SS. Willie returned to Fuerth and learned that his father was killed in Auschwitz and his mother, two sisters and one brother were murdered in the Belzec death camp. In 1947, Willie came to Canada on a farm workers program. He rebuilt his life in Montreal, met his wife, and as he says, "the rest is history."

This annual commemoration is organized by the Kristallnacht Committee of the Montreal Holocaust Museum, which includes Holocaust survivors, representing some of the 3,500 living in Montreal today. The commemoration is open to everyone.

About Kristallnacht: Kristallnacht (the Night of Broken Glass) is the name given to the pogrom that took place on November 9 and 10, 1938. During the pogrom, Jewish homes, businesses and synagogues were destroyed throughout Germany, annexed Austria and in areas of the Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia. Thirty-thousand Jewish men were rounded up, and sent to concentration camps and over 100 were killed. The Night of Broken Glass marked the intensification of a regime of terror against Jews by the Third Reich. The indifference of the local population and international community demonstrated to the Nazis that there would be little resistance to radical measures against the Jews, such as their deportation, slave labour and murder in the following years. This pogrom became known as Kristallnacht due to the shards of shattered glass that lined the streets in its wake.

About the Montreal Holocaust Museum: The Montreal Holocaust Museum educates people of all ages and backgrounds about the Holocaust, while sensitizing the public to the universal perils of antisemitism, racism, hate and indifference.

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For additional information or to schedule an interview with a Holocaust survivor, contact: Audrey Licop, Head of Communications and Programs | 514-345-2605 ext. 3026 | 514-892-2605(cell.) | audrey.licop@museeholocauste.ca OR Sarah Fogg, Programming Coordinator | 514-345-2605 ext. 3437 | sarah.fogg@museeholocauste.ca