



Musée Holocauste Montréal
Montreal Holocaust Museum

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Montrealers Commemorate Kristallnacht Pogrom

Montréal, QC, November 8, 2019 – The Montreal Holocaust Museum will commemorate the Kristallnacht pogrom, also known as the Night of Broken Glass, on **Sunday, November 10, 2019 at 5:00 pm at the Museum** (5151 Côte-Ste-Catherine Road). The commemoration will take place alongside Holocaust survivors, including Kristallnacht witness **Morris Schnitzer**, who will share his about his memories of this painful time.

The Kristallnacht pogrom took place on November 9 and 10, 1938 and marked the intensification of a regime of terror carried out against Jews of the Third Reich. During the pogrom, numerous Jewish homes, 7,500 businesses and over 200 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. Nearly 100 Jews were killed. 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.

The historical significance of this pogrom will be highlighted during the commemoration through eye-witness testimony. Holocaust survivors and Kristallnacht witnesses, **Leo Dortort** and **Willie Glaser** will light memorial candles and recite traditional Jewish prayers in memory of Shoah victims. Commemorative songs will be performed by the Bialik High School Alumni Choir.

About Morris Schnitzer: Mr. Schnitzer was born in 1922 in Bochum, Germany. In 1935, he was forced to flee due to antisemitism and settled in Berlin, which is where he later witnessed Kristallnacht. His mother got him onto the Kindertransport, and he was assigned to Holland. He was sent to a *hachshara*, a Zionist training program for collective farm life that prepared volunteers for emigration to Palestine. After the German occupation of Holland, the *hachshara* students were rounded up. Morris escaped and lived under a false identity in Amsterdam. In 1942, he crossed into Belgium and went to Switzerland, where he was sent back to Belgium. He joined the Belgian resistance and after being betrayed with his comrades, he once fled and spent the rest of the war under a false identity on a dairy farm near Waterloo in Belgium. Morris' parents and his youngest brother were murdered in Auschwitz. He immigrated to Canada in 1947 to join his other brother who had survived. Morris settled in Ottawa and became a prominent soil organic chemist.

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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