

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## International Holocaust Remembrance Day: Canadian Figures and Personalities Reflect on Legacy of Shoah in Online Commemoration

**Montreal, January 25, 2021** – In honour of **International Holocaust Remembrance Day** on January 27 at 5:30 pm, the Montreal Holocaust Museum will host a <u>special commemoration event on Facebook</u> in partnership with Federation CJA, the Cummings Centre, the Jewish Public Library, March of the Living Montreal, and the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights.

The commemoration event will feature messages of resilience from survivors, and the thoughts of Canadians from different walks of life as we reflect on the legacy of the Holocaust. Attendees will be encouraged to participate in real time by sharing their own thoughts in response to various questions related to Holocaust remembrance today:

- What does the legacy of the Holocaust mean to you?
- Why is it important to remember the Holocaust?
- What has the world learned?

The event will include messages from **The Honourable Bob Rae**, Canadian Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, **H. E. Sabine Anne Sparwasser**, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, **The Honourable Irwin Cotler**, Special Envoy on Preserving Holocaust Remembrance and Combatting Antisemitism, **H.E. Souriya Otmani**, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco, **Monique Polak**, author and educator, **Karyne Lemieux**, actor, **Tommy Schnurmacher**, journalist, **Rivka Augenfeld**, refugee rights advocate, and many more.

**Significance of January 27:** On January 27, 1945, the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration and death camp was liberated by Soviet forces. Since 2005, this day has officially been recognized as the International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust. On this day, people around the world remember the 6 million victims of the Holocaust and the countless lives that were forever changed by this genocide.

**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.

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