

ANNUAL REPORT



2023 / 2024



Musée Holocauste Montréal
Montreal Holocaust Museum



SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

100th
birthday

OF TED BOLGAR

HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR
WITNESS OF HISTORY



HAPPY BIRTHDAY
JOYEUX ANNIVERSAIRE
AD ME'AH VE'ESRIM SHANAH

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A doll belonging to Holocaust Survivor Daisy Gross.

THE MUSEUM

OUR HISTORY

The Montreal Holocaust Museum, formerly known as the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre, was founded in 1979 by Holocaust survivors and young leaders of the Montreal Jewish community.



OUR MISSION

The Montreal Holocaust Museum informs people of all ages and backgrounds about the Holocaust while raising awareness about the universal perils of antisemitism, racism, hate, and indifference. Through its exhibitions, educational activities, and commemorative programs, the Museum promotes respect for diversity and the sanctity of human life.



OUR VALUES

1

RESPECT HISTORY,
REMEMBRANCE, AND THE
LEGACY OF OUR SURVIVOR
FOUNDERS

2

PLACE INDIVIDUALS AT
THE HEART OF OUR
ACTIONS AND DECISIONS

3

LOOK TO OUR PAST
AS WE WORK TO BUILD
A BETTER FUTURE

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- **Ensure** the growth and development of the institution.
- **Increase** visitor attendance and enrich the visitor experience.
- **Enhance** the visibility, reputation, and popularity of the Museum for all audiences and in all spaces (physical and virtual).
- **Affirm** our expertise in Holocaust, genocide, and human rights education.
- **Plan and ensure** the successful move of the Museum to its new location.
- **Reinforce** our roots in the Jewish community while forging new partnerships with other communities, groups, and institutions at the provincial, national, and international levels.
- **Act** as an agent of social change by contributing to public discourse and programming that address critical human rights issues.
- **Secure** funding and augment financial support by developing new fundraising initiatives, expanding donor networks, and seeking grant opportunities.
- **Expand** the Museum's reach and leadership in the preservation of memory, including artefact and oral history collections and commemorations.

REMARKS FROM **PRESIDENT** AND **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Dear friends of the Museum,

Once again, our annual report lays out our unique challenges and achievements.

The past few years with the pandemic presented many challenges to the Museum. This year, our Museum has had to cope with two other but equally significant crises: the outbreak of the conflict between Israel and Hamas post-October 7th and the teachers' strike on November 23, which closed 800 schools for 22 days. These crises shook our audiences, affected our teams, and disrupted our activities. The professional team managed, despite everything, to stay the course and lead our institution toward new successes, even as the new Museum project was prioritized.

We are incredibly proud to have welcomed 22,400 visitors over the past year and trained more than 926 teachers in 20 workshops, seminars, and conferences. We reached more than 25,000 students at the Museum, off-site, and online and our teaching tools were downloaded more than 6,800 times. Our rich public programming reached 7,200 participants at 35 public events. Our collection grew by 431 objects and 23 new interviews. We are pleased that 32 new donors joined the President's Circle. The Give Voice campaign, chaired by Julia Reitman has now raised an incredible \$113.5 million of its \$120 million goal.

As such, we must pay tribute to our professional team, which is an exceptionally competent and resilient group. They have enhanced our range of services, proposed new activities, enriched our collections, and invested in nurturing the new Museum project. We would also like to thank our Board of Directors, guides, Witnesses to History, and generous donors, including the Azrieli Foundation and the Asper Foundation, who are at the heart of our achievements and successes.

We would also like to acknowledge the vital role played by Julia Reitman and Dorothy Zalcman Howard in bringing the new Museum project to life. Julia's ambition, conviction, determination, and incredible commitment as Chair of the capital campaign made this huge dream a concrete reality. Dorothy's vision, organizational skills, and emotional genius were instrumental in rallying all wills and harnessing all energies to bring this dream to fruition. We cannot thank them enough. We also owe a debt of gratitude to Alice Herscovitch, the driving force behind this spectacular new Museum project. We are grateful for her talent and dedication. The new Museum bears her signature. Thank you, Alice.

Acknowledgement must also be extended to Helen Malkin for her generosity, expertise and commitment which has been invaluable. She has been exceptionally diligent and determined to bring our new Museum project to life. Thanks to her involvement, it promises to be impressive.

It's a complicated time to celebrate, however, with the worrying rise in incidents of hatred, antisemitism, and Islamophobia.

At a time when racist rhetoric is being unleashed, when a self-proclaimed Montreal imam is publicly calling for the slitting of Jewish throats, when the notion of genocide is being trivialized and invoked to delegitimize Israel's right to exist, we have to admit, in all humility, that educating about the Shoah is not a vaccine against racism and cannot totally immunize against hatred and discrimination.

At the Montreal Holocaust Museum, we will never give in to hatred and division. We will continue to act out of respect for history and remembrance, and out of a sense of civic responsibility. We will continue to remind all our audiences that history has an unfortunate tendency to stutter, that words can kill, and that the Holocaust has universal significance. The Martinique writer Frantz Fanon once wrote: "When you hear people speak ill of the Jews, prick up your ears; they're talking about you."

Through our Museum, we aim to protect the freedom and dignity of all our fellow citizens.

Hon. Jacques Saada and Daniel Amar

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jacques Saada".A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Amar".

MUSEUM VISITORS

Students, tourists, and visitors of all ages and backgrounds came to our Museum to learn about the history of Jewish life before, during, and after the Holocaust.

In discovering hundreds of historical objects and remarkable survivor testimonies, visitors left with a better understanding of the importance of respecting diversity, fighting all forms of hatred, and speaking out against racism and antisemitism.





OUR VISITORS

- **22,409 visitors**
to our permanent exhibition,
including 14,777 students
- **7,522 visitors**
experienced a guided tour
- **29,139 online visitors**
to our virtual exhibitions
- **2,860 visitors**
during free admissions days



VIRTUAL AND TRAVELING EXHIBITIONS

Beyond the walls of our Museum, online visitors had the opportunity to learn more about the history of the Holocaust and its human rights legacy through our virtual exhibitions. This year, nearly 30,000 online visitors from around the world explored our 4 virtual exhibitions.

VISITORS TO VIRTUAL* AND TRAVELLING EXHIBITIONS: 30,699



WITNESSES TO HISTORY, KEEPERS OF MEMORY



TELL ME A STORY! YOUTH LITERATURE AND THE HOLOCAUST



"Tell Me A Story! Youth Literature and the Holocaust" and "Witnesses to History, Keepers of Memory" were presented to 780 people at the Grimsby Museum (Ontario) between January and May 2024.



* Data impacted by the implementation of Law 25: the drop observed in Google Analytics (GA4) and conversions generated in Google Ads and Meta Ads is abnormally high due to the loss of data associated with the management of cookies surrounding Law 25. The traffic reported in GA4 and the conversions measured in Google Ads and Meta Ads are underestimated by around 22.2%, according to PubInteractive's estimate. In particular, this affects the calculation of the number of visitors to our website, including virtual exhibitions. As a result of the adoption of Bill 25, we are starting from a new basis for calculating the data collected by our website for the year 2023-2024.

OUR COLLECTION

The Montreal Holocaust Museum's collection is unique in Canada and tells the stories of survivors who rebuilt their lives here after the Shoah.



The Teddy bear of Marianne Constantine.

HIGHLIGHTS

- A rich collection of 13,323 objects.
- 431 new "treasures" were added to our collection this year.
- 23 new survivor testimonies were recorded, for a total of 917 recordings in our collection.
- 19 objects were loaned to 5 institutions, including the Grimsby Museum (Ontario), Musée Pointe-à-Callière (Quebec), the Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 (Nova Scotia), the Canadian Museum for Human Rights (Manitoba), and the Fort Lennox National Historic Site (Quebec).

WHEN OBJECTS TELL THE STORY



Shoes
Donated by:
Maurice Terk
01/23/2023

Ester Weinstein wore these shoes in the displaced persons camp in Ulm (Germany).

Eva Johanna Baer (née Marcuse) was born on June 25, 1927, in a small village called Altdamm, home to six or seven Jewish families.

After Liberation, Eva wanted to leave Belgium. She moved to Canada on June 10, 1947, and met her husband, Charles Baer.



Eva Johanna Baer's (née Marcuse) identity card
Donated by:
Eva J. Baer
04/03/2024



Model of MS St. Louis

Donated by:

Robert Jan Van Pelt & Miriam Greenbaum
01/24/2023

Miniature model of the MS St. Louis. In 1939, the St. Louis carried 937 passengers, mainly Jewish refugees seeking to escape antisemitic persecution. They first attempted to disembark on May 27 at the port of Havana, but only 28 passengers were allowed to enter in Cuba. Of the 907 passengers who returned to Europe, 255 were murdered in killing centers during the war.



Doll clothes

Donated by:

Kathy Diamond
02/26/2023

Born in Bratislava on November 27, 1929, Marianne Bolgar (née Guttman) moved to Budapest with her family in 1933. The German occupation of Hungary began on March 19, 1944, and during the long days spent in hiding, Marianne knitted clothes for her doll.

"Csibi was a rag doll with soft, flexible arms and legs; she was easy to dress and undress. I designed and made playsuits, dresses, skirts, sweaters - clothes a young child would wear. For winter, I knitted her a beige skating suit." *Memoirs - Marianne Bolgar* (p. 68).

VISITORS TO THE COLLECTION

This year, our collections team welcomed approximately 40 visitors to the archives: volunteer guides, researchers, donors, museum colleagues, and the families of Holocaust survivors.

For just over a year, Barbara Maass has volunteered in the Museum's storeroom, highlighting the artifacts of her father, Gerhart and her uncle Herbert. There are several hundred items: letters, photographs, publications, and objects, all of which trace her family's history during the Holocaust. While researching her family history, Barbara Maass did vital work identifying, cataloging, and interpreting the items, which profoundly contributed to the collection's documentation.



Los Angeles Holocaust Museum delegation at the reserve

ORAL HISTORY

Our oral history collection has grown to include 917 testimonies. This past year, the Museum conducted 23 new interviews with Holocaust survivors. Most survivors interviewed live in the Montreal area, but our work has brought us as far as Ottawa and Toronto to speak to survivors who first landed in Montreal.

For the first time since our oral history project began, we conducted as many interviews in French as in English, which allows us to share even more stories with francophone audiences.

Léon Célémski, Holocaust survivor, and Hon. Jacques Saada, President of the Museum.



Holocaust survivor Muguette Myers, photographed by Stéphanie Cousineau.



Eszter Andor, Commemorations and Oral History Coordinator, with Holocaust survivor Ernest Ehrman.

- We interviewed survivors from Poland, Romania, Hungary, France, and Belgium, and **for the first time since we started interviewing 30 years ago**, from Morocco.
- This year, we completed our partnership with Liberation 75, whose aim was to collect **150 survivor interviews** from Canada as part of their Last Chance Initiative, to which the museum contributed **53 interviews** over the past two years.
- We continued interviewing survivors as part of our partnership with the USC Shoah Foundation, who provided funding for **13 new interviews** in 2023/24.
- Through a partnership with Sephardi Voices, we integrated **seven testimonies** of Jewish survivors from Tunisia and Iraq.

SURVIVOR TESTIMONY

- We are honoured to have **10 survivors** who offer school groups the chance to relive history through their first-person testimonies. These are always incredibly moving and transformative experiences for the students, who are so privileged to hear these last Witnesses to History share their stories.
- **2,583 students** had the privilege of listening to survivor testimonies at the Museum, while **740 others** met a survivor virtually.
- Our survivor speakers also visited a large number of schools and other institutions, both in Montreal and in other areas of Quebec. **2,138 students and adults** attended a survivor testimony, as did staff at the Defence Institute in Ottawa.

DIMENSIONS IN TESTIMONY

The testing phase of Dimensions in Testimony, an interactive biography of Holocaust survivor **Marguerite Élias Quddus**, has continued. With another **1,852 public interactions in 2023/24**, we have reached the threshold of 8,000 public interactions needed to complete the testing phase.

The interactive biography, offered as an animated activity to visiting school groups, has been a great success for teachers and students alike.



Virtual encounter with Marguerite Élias Quddus hosted by Leona McKenty, volunteer guide, and Antoine Simonato, mediator

IN **MEMORIAM**

In memory of the survivors whose testimonies are preserved in perpetuity in our oral history collection *Witnesses to History*.



HARRY BAIKOWITZ



DORA COHEN



MARK GALLER



HENRY GITELMAN



WILLIE GLASER



JULIEN HUSYT



JOHNNY JABLON



ANNETTE KLEINGRIB



REGINA LAZAROVITS



SOL LUGER



MILA MESNER



MARGARET NEWMAN

EDUCATION

Planning for the 2023-2024 year had been influenced by two significant events.

First, the Ontario Ministry of Education's decision to require Holocaust education starting in Grade 6 encouraged us to market our expertise to Ontario teachers.

Secondly, the attack on Israel on October 7 had a profound emotional impact on the community, our professional team, and our audiences as a whole. Due to the significant increase in antisemitic incidents in Montreal and globally, we focused our 2024 seminar for Canadian educators on antisemitism and racism in the age of social media. Through partnerships with organizations in France, Germany, Quebec, Ontario, and Alberta, we developed a comprehensive program aimed at those who have incredible influence on today's youth to become the open-minded and tolerant citizens of tomorrow.



Sivane Hirsch, professor in the Department of Teaching and Learning Studies at Université Laval, and Sabrina Moisan, professor in the Faculty of Education at Université de Sherbrooke, train teachers on the "Teaching about Genocides" guide.



Holocaust survivor Daisy Gross surrounded by students.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Our online pedagogical tools are available free of charge and include: **25 educational tools** adapted to the Ministry of Education's programs, recordings of two presentations made during the 2022 Seminar, an article titled "The Holocaust in Tunisia," and an article on "Antisemitic Caricatures at the Turn of the 20th Century." A teaching workshop on the use of primary sources titled "Finding refuge in Canada" will be available online soon.
- **6,800 downloads** of our pedagogical tools around the world.
- **14,777 students**, in a group and individually, visited our permanent exhibition.
- **25,038 students** participated in a Museum program:
 - **19,090 students and teachers** visited the Museum in person in groups, where they attended tours, survivor testimonies, and workshops.
 - **3,116 students and teachers** participated in our virtual programs (history classes, survivor testimonies, and workshops).
 - **2,753 students and 79 teachers** borrowed our in-class tool kits about ***Hana's Suitcase*** and ***the Heart from Auschwitz***.

TEACHER TRAINING

Thanks to the generous support of **The Asper Foundation**, we trained **926 teachers** through **20 workshops and conferences** with the following organizations:

- The Canadian Society for Yad Vashem (CSYV) Scholarship program
- Association québécoise pour l'enseignement de l'univers social (AQEUS)
- École en Réseau (EER)
- English Montreal School Board (EMSB)
- Futurs enseignants de l'Université de Montréal
- Jewish Day School Fellowship (JDSF)
- Association des professionnels en culture en citoyenneté québécoise (APCCQ)
- Les futurs enseignants de l'Université de Sherbrooke
- Lower Canada College (LCC),
- Libération 75
- Réseau pour l'enseignement des sciences sociales du Canada (RESSC).
- Ottawa Carleton Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO-FEEO).
- Société des professeurs d'histoire du Québec. (SPHQ)
- Association provinciale des enseignants du Québec (APEQ)



Teachers' Seminar



ENCOUNTERS AT THE MUSEUM

■ **November 15, 2023:** "Teaching the Holocaust in Grade 6: Tools for Overcoming Challenges." A full-day training session for 20 Grade 6 teachers from Quebec and Ontario, both French and English-speaking.

■ **May 2, 2024:** "Teaching the Holocaust and Understanding Antisemitism." Historian Alex Maws of the Jewish Refugee Association explored the mechanisms of anti-Jewish racism, Yoni Berrous of Yad Vashem shared perspectives on educating against antisemitism in the classroom, while Jody Spiegel of the Azrieli Foundation moderated the event.

■ **July 3 to 5, 2024:** "Antisemitism and Racism in the Age of Social Media." Over the course of three days, conferences, workshops, and activities were offered to nearly 100 people from across Canada. Academic specialists, partner organizations, and our professional team were all involved in programming this event with the theme.

These events were made possible thanks to the support of The Asper Foundation, The Azrieli Foundation, and Federation CJA.

MEDIA AND OUTREACH

The Museum's visibility to the public is crucial to our success and enables us to extend our mission beyond the walls of our exhibition hall. This year has been rich in milestones, and we've told the story of our impact to a broad audience with over 100 media mentions.



A SELECTION OF PRESS MENTIONS

May 2023 :

Musée de l'Holocauste de Montréal: l'IA pour rappeler les horreurs nazies (TVA).

May 2023 :

Why Genocide Education is More Important than Ever (CJAD Radio)

September 2023 :

L'antisémitisme au Canada durant la Deuxième Guerre mondiale (JeMeSouviens.Org).

September 2023 :

Holocaust Museums enter a dynamic new era across Canada (Canadian Jewish News).

October 2023 :

Kristallnacht marked at Montreal Holocaust Museum with letters from a young wife (Montreal Gazette).

December 2023 :

Construction begins on the new Montreal Holocaust Museum (Plusieurs sources incluant Montreal Gazette, Global News, La Presse Canadienne, etc.).



January 2024 :

Bourgie Hall recital will mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day in Montreal (Montreal Gazette).

February 2024 :

Nouveau Musée de l'Holocauste de Montréal | Début des travaux déconstruction (La Presse).

February 2024 :

Museums return Silver Lost to the Nazis (The New York Times).

March 2024 :

Holocaust survivor shares her memory (The Montreal Gazette)

DIGITAL MARKETING STATISTICS

440

Mobile application
downloads

4,229

General newsletter
subscribers

2,189

Teachers newsletter
subscribers

315,000

Website
visitors

On October 28, 2023, alone our online resource
"10 Stages of Genocide" had over 16,457 visits.

Over the past year, our communications department navigated uncharted territory. After the events of October 7th, it was imperative for us to speak in a united and consistent voice and to be a source of education for our wider community. As such, the communications team was committed to responding to events as they transpired and providing communications resources to our internal team, the local and national press, and the public at large. Because of this consistent messaging, our digital footprint - including our social media and website - saw a period of remarkable growth. In the face of global events, the public often turned to us.



Facebook

followers: 7,500
Reach* : 488,100



Instagram

followers: 2,716
Reach* : 14,900



YouTube

100,200 views
788,100 impressions*



LinkedIn

34,431 impressions
14,531 engagements*

*Data impacted by the implementation of Law 25: the drop observed in Google Analytics (GA4) and conversions generated in Google Ads and Meta Ads is abnormally high due to the loss of data associated with the management of cookies surrounding Law 25. The traffic reported in GA4 and the conversions measured in Google Ads and Meta Ads are underestimated by around 22.2%, according to PubInteractive's estimate. In particular, this affects the calculation of the number of visitors to our website, including virtual exhibitions. As a result of the adoption of Bill 25, we are starting from a new basis for calculating the data collected by our website for the year 2023-2024.

PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

This year, the Museum continued offering its public programs online and in-person to a wide audience. Thanks to our 35 events with 31 partner organizations, we reached an audience of 7,200 viewers.



Radio-Canada's Pénélope McQuade and author Anne Berest.



Our virtual programs about the Holocaust and human rights remain available online for the public to access long after the event took place. These public programs are crucial in our efforts to promote Holocaust education and awareness to a large and diverse audience.



Richard Schnurbach, CPA and outgoing President of the Montreal Holocaust Museum, receiving the Outstanding Leadership Award at the Annual General Meeting in September 2023.



The launch of the film *Irena's Vow* with soprano and actress Sharon Azrieli.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Book talk with Anne Berest, author of *The Postcard*, one of the most acclaimed and beloved French novels of recent years, in conversation with Pénélope McQuade, radio and television host.
- Discussion with Tanya Singer, Bernice Steinhardt, and Natalie Nudell about Textile Arts, Women, and the Holocaust and how they became a form of resistance, remembrance, and cultural preservation in partnership with *Tablet Magazine*.
- The Montreal Premiere of *SHTTL* followed by a discussion with Executive Producer Eric Gozlan and actor and singer Sharon Azrieli, in partnership with Goldrush Entertainment.
- Film screening of the Oscar-nominated documentary *All Jews Out (Alle Juden Raus!)*, by the esteemed filmmaker Emanuel Rund, followed by a discussion with him in partnership with the Goethe-Institut.
- Virtual screening of the documentary *Antisemitism* by Ilan Ziv.

COMMEMORATIONS

Our annual commemorations of Kristallnacht (the Night of Broken Glass), International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust, and Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) are important moments for individuals to remember the six million victims, pay tribute to the survivors, and honour the memory of the Holocaust.



KRISTALLNACHT

Over 200 people attended the 85th anniversary of Kristallnacht that focused on the story of the Cytryn family, whose lives were forever changed by the world's failure to intervene following Kristallnacht and the Nazis' genocidal persecution of Jews.

Their story was told through Salomea Cytryn's own words, as her letters sent from the Warsaw ghetto to her husband Nathan in a prisoner of war camp were donated to the Montreal Holocaust Museum and translated by the Polish Institute of Science and Arts in Canada.

YOM HASHOAH VEHAGVURAH

700 people attended this year's Yom Hashoah VeHagvurah commemoration. This year's theme, "One People, One Fate," focused on the wide-ranging experiences of the Jewish communities affected by the Holocaust. Through a compelling video featuring testimonies of survivors from Greece, Italy, Poland, and Hungary, attendees learnt about the collective history that unites the Jewish people and the strength that has emerged from the darkest times the community has faced. The inclusion of Mizrahi community members in the ceremony further celebrates the rich diversity and shared fate.



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF COMMEMORATION IN MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST

To mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day, we partnered with Salle Bourgie to present a night of music called "Music at Theresienstadt," performed by Austrian baritone Wolfgang Holzmaier and pianist Olivier Godin. More than 150 people enjoyed this incredibly moving recital, which featured music composed by prisoners in the Theresienstadt concentration camp.



Holocaust survivors Sonja and Harry Langburt with their children, Ahron, Michael, and Glenn Langburt, and their grandchildren, Elisha, Emma, Mia, and Dylan Langburt.



The Hon. Pablo Rodriguez, Minister of Transport, Benoit Charette, Minister of the Environment, Climate Change, Wildlife and Parks, and the Hon. Jacques Saada, President of the Museum.

HUMAN RIGHTS

The history of the Holocaust teaches us about the dangers of indifference and informs our collective obligation to speak out against racism, antisemitism, and xenophobia.

By drawing upon the lessons of the past through public programs, educational activities, and official statements, we encourage individuals to speak out against all forms of hatred in the present.

His Excellency Ahmed Obaid Al Mansoori, politician and founding president of the Crossroads of Civilizations Museum, and Audrey Licop, Deputy Director General of the Museum.



PROGRAMMING

- Meeting with the Hungarian Consul General, Ms Helga Katalin Pritz - April 2023.
- Meeting with a delegation led by the Archbishop of Montreal, Christian Lépine, as part of the Judeo-Christian dialogue - April 2023.
- Speech at the ceremony in memory of the victims of the Tutsi genocide in Rwanda - April 2023.
- Screening of *Rwanda, le paradis retrouvé* by Charles Domingue in partnership with the Rwandan Community Abroad/Montréal - April 2023.
- Museum welcomed His Excellency Ahmed Obaid Al Mansoori, politician and founding president of the Crossroads of Civilizations Museum - May 2023.
- Museum welcomed the Cree Nation Government - June 2023.
- Reception of the Mayor and Delegation of the Portuguese town of Carregal Do Sal - October 2023.
- Meeting with the Council of Commissioners of the English Montreal School Board - December 2023.
- Reception of the Mayor and Delegation of the Portuguese town of Carregal Do Sal - October 2023.
- Meeting with the Council of Commissioners of the English Montreal School Board - December 2023.
- Reception of Ambassador Deborah Lipstadt, Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism - December 2023.
- Hosted a delegation from the German Consulate General in Montreal - March 2024.



The Cree Nation Government visits the Montreal Holocaust Museum.



Daniel Amar, Executive Director, at the 30th commemoration of the genocide of the Tutsis in Rwanda.



Visit from the Chief Rabbi of France, Haim Korsia.



Archbishop Christian Lépine visits the Museum.



Visit from Ambassador Deborah Lipstadt, United States Special Envoy To Monitor And Combat Antisemitism.

THE MUSEUM ISSUED STATEMENTS ON THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS

- Denouncing the standing ovation at the House of Commons for a former member of the First Ukrainian Division.
- Condemning the October 7th attack by Hamas upon the people of Israel, the single deadliest day for the Jewish people since the Holocaust.
- Condemning the attempted firebombing at Beth Tikvah Synagogue and the Federation CJA West Island office on the eve of Kristallnacht.
- Speaking out about the continuing war in Israel and the rising antisemitism on the streets of Montreal.
- Our concern about the proliferation of antisemitism in Montreal and the ever-increasing importance of continuing our mission of Holocaust education.
- Expressing shock and disappointment regarding the non-factual article published by Ms. Lila Dussault in *La Presse* on March 5th, 2024, titled "Protesters Oppose the Arrival of Israeli Soldiers at the Holocaust Museum."

THE NEW MUSEUM PROJECT

After many years of hard work, we are thrilled to have finally broken ground on the new Museum project this year.

Construction is now advancing rapidly, and we are excited to open our doors in 2026. It will allow us to expand our programs, broaden our impact, and further our leadership role across Canada in Holocaust education and the prevention of antisemitism, racism, and hate. We invite you to stand with us and be part of this transformational project.



HIGHLIGHTS

- **\$113.5 million** fundraised thanks to the incredible support of 200 private donors.
- The **Azrieli Foundation** committed an additional \$10 million, bringing their total commitment to \$25 million. The Foundation's dedication to Holocaust education and remembrance is exceptional, and we are deeply moved by their confidence in this institution and project.
- The **Government of Canada** pledged an additional \$5 million to the project, bringing their total commitment to \$25 million, in a powerful demonstration of their commitment to combating antisemitism, racism, and hate.
- The **Government of Quebec** has also pledged \$20 million for the project.
- The **City of Montreal** has pledged \$1.5 million
- **Desjardins** increased their sponsorship to \$1 million.
- New major gifts from the **Hilary & Galen Weston Foundation** and the **Conference of Jewish Material Claims Against Germany**.



CONSTRUCTION

Broccolini was hired as our Construction Manager and Colliers as Project Manager.

On the construction front, excavation is complete, as well as pipe and piling.

The foundation will be poured shortly, and the building envelope is expected to be closed by next winter.

Toronto-based Bruce Mau Design was hired to work on wayfinding and donor recognition.

Our co-curators Robert Jan van Pelt and Marie-Blanche Fourcade, along with designers Pelletier de Fontenay, La Bande à Paul, and Musealia, are hard at work designing our new permanent exhibit and children's exhibit, both of which will showcase the most extensive collection of Holocaust-related artifacts in Canada.

VOLUNTEERS

Our organization's remarkable growth would not be possible without the support, dedication, and leadership of our incredible team of volunteers.

We're incredibly grateful to our volunteers for guiding visitors, sharing their stories, serving on committees, organizing fundraisers, planning events, and taking part in other crucial actions and decisions.



Volunteer guide training 2023-2024.

Ruth Najman and Doris Steg, Co-Chairs of the Yom Hashoah Committee, receiving Lifetime Achievement Awards with Hon. Jacques Saada, President of the Museum.



- 10 survivors who present Witnesses to History testimony.
- 28 active volunteer guides, including 10 new guides from the 2023 cohort.
- More than 180 volunteers.

PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE EVENT





OUR PARTNERS





GIVE VOICE CAMPAIGN

■ Foundational benefactor: \$25,000,000

Azrieli Foundation

■ Visionaries: \$2,000,000 +

Ruth Grubner & Victor David Foundation

Alexander & Ruth Dworkin Tolerance Fund

Maureen & Jack Dym

Andrew & Carole Harper Tolerance Fund

Roslyn Margles

Eleanor z"l & George Reinitz

■ Founder's circle: \$1,000,000 +

In memory of Annie & Marcel Adams

Ronald & Herbert Black

Fondation Sandra et Alain Bouchard

Rita & Charles Bronfman

Claims Conference, EVZ, & BMF

Desjardins

Brenda & Samuel Gewurz z"l

Nini-Anne and Lyon Gould

Vera & Morty Gross Fund

Thomas O. Hecht

Adriana & Haim z"l Kotler

Miriam & Sol Luger, Erica & Gerald Luger, Jayne & Stephen Luger, and Caroline & Earl Luger

Rhona Luger, Selina Luger, & Families

Sherry Mikelberg, Susan Luger, & Mikelberg Family Foundation

Joyce Takefman & William Nisker in honour of Lucy & David Nisker

Joanne Trudeau & Daniel Rabinowicz

■ Guardians: \$500,000 +

Baazov Family

Cola & Cons Families

Joan & Cary C. Dressler Foundation

The Gelmont Foundation

Lily & Alex Kotler

Power Corporation of Canada

Richter

Sara & Irwin Tauben

The Hilary & Galen Weston Foundation

Anonymous

■ Protectors: \$250,000 +

The Asper Foundation

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For more information:

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