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September 22, 2009

Ms. Marie Lemay  
Chief Executive Officer  
National Capital Commission  
40 Elgin Street, Ottawa, ON  
K1P 1C7

Dear Ms. Lemay:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Vietnamese Canadian Federation as a supporter of Tribute to Liberty's proposal to build a monument to the victims of totalitarian Communism in Ottawa. We do not support a change to the title of the monument as suggested by the National Capital Commission. We believe it is of the utmost importance that the title be focused on the victims of Communism.

Before coming to Canada, many members of our community experienced great sufferings under the Vietnamese Communist dictatorship regime. As refugees from this brutal regime, they brought to Canada with them their hopes and dreams of liberty, as well as the painful memories of their life in Vietnam. Painful memories of Communism are part of the immigrant experience of this country—interwoven into Canada's multicultural mosaic.

Removing the word "Communism" from the title of the monument, or adding reference to other "oppressive regimes" to the title would, in effect, alter the memorial to such an extent that it would cease to have its intended meaning. It would be an injustice to the hundreds of millions of victims of Communism and an omission on the record of history to act otherwise. This monument is a tribute to the liberty that Canada offers, and an acknowledgement of the horrors that were perpetrated against liberty under Communism.

We urge the Commission to accept the original title in the proposal.

Yours sincerely,

(Original signed by)

Ut Van Ngo, President

c.c. The Honourable Jason Kenney, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism

Mr. Paul Dewar, M.P. (Ottawa Centre)