

From: Nico Slobinsky <nslobinsky@cija.ca>

Sent: Monday, October 25, 2021 3:35 PM

To: Clerks <Clerks@portmoody.ca>

Cc: Etti Goldman <egoldman@CIJA.ca>

Subject: RE: International Holocaust Remembrance Day - Lightning Request

Dear Mayor Vagramov and City Council,

My name is Nico Slobinsky, I am the Director for [the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs](#) (CIJA) in British Columbia. CIJA is a national, non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to protecting Jewish life in Canada through advocacy. CIJA represents hundreds of thousands of Jewish Canadians affiliated with Jewish Federations across the country. In our province, we work in direct partnership with the [Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver](#) (JFGV). I am writing to inquire about our desire to submit a lighting request for the dome of Port Moody City Hall in honour of International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Please see below for details:

- Name of organization- CIJA, the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs
- Contact name Nico Slobinsky, Senior Director – Pacific Region
- Email nslobinsky@cija.ca
- Address: 950 W 41st Ave, Suite 300 | Vancouver, BC | V5Z 2N7
- Date(s) of event Thursday, January 27th 2022
- Date requested for lighting Thursday, January 27th 2022
- Description of cause/event In 2005, The U.N. General Assembly designated January 27th- the anniversary of the liberation of the largest Nazi concentration and death camp Auschwitz- Birkenau where over 6,000,000 innocents were systematically murdered- as International Holocaust Remembrance Day (IHRD). January 2020 marked the 75th anniversary of liberation in 1945.

The U.N. resolution that created IHRD rejects denial of the holocaust and condemns discrimination and violence based on religion or ethnicity. IHRD is officially observed by the United Nations countries including Canada, Italy, and Germany, as well as many cities such as Calgary, Ottawa, and Montreal. Canada offers refuge and new hope to immigrants, refugees and survivors, some of whom have escaped more recent genocides- and it's a place where people can learn from each other and share cultures.

Antisemitism is on the rise around the world, in Canada, and in Vancouver. Hatred has flourished in the digital age. It is more important than ever that the lessons learned and horrors of the Holocaust remain present in the public consciousness so that they are never repeated.

As we reflect upon that dark period in history and remember the atrocities perpetrated during the Holocaust, Vancouver has the opportunity to join with the Jewish community and all of our citizens, and Canadians from all walks of life in demonstrating our commitment to stand against antisemitism, hate and genocide.

To commemorate this day to create greater public understanding and awareness of this horrific period in history between 1933-1945, the City of Vancouver has proclaimed January 27th as International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

- Have you made the same request to other iconic facilities in Canada? If yes, which ones? Yes, we have asked a number of municipalities in the lower mainland, Vancouver Convention Centre, Canada Place, and BC Legislature.
- Is this an annual or one-time event? It is an annual day of remembrance, as sanctioned by the United Nations. We would appreciate this request being added to the city calendar: <https://www.portmoody.ca/en/arts-culture-and-heritage/light-up-city-hall.aspx>
- What colour(s) are you requesting for lighting? Yellow, as yellow evokes the memorial candles lit in remembrance of all victims of the Shoah (Holocaust), an integral part of Holocaust commemorations.
- Please provide your social media handles. We do our best to promote each cause on social media.
Facebook: @cijainfo
Instagram: cijainfo
Twitter: @cijainfo
Hashtags: #weremember, #neveragain #InternationalHolocaustRemembrance

Best Regards,
Nico

Nicolas Slobinsky

*Senior Director, Pacific Region
The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA)*

950 W 41st Ave, Suite 300 | Vancouver, BC | V5Z 2N7
O: 604 622 4240 / M: 604 340 2437 / T: [@nicoslobinsky](https://www.instagram.com/nicoslobinsky)
CIJA.ca / [twitter](https://twitter.com/cijainfo) / [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/cijainfo) / [instagram](https://www.instagram.com/cijainfo)

This e-mail is privileged, confidential and subject to copyright. Unauthorized use or disclosure is prohibited.