



Inky Mark, Member of Parliament
Conservative Deputy Critic
Citizenship and Immigration
Dauphin-Swan River-Marquette

C-331
Ukrainian Canadian
Restitution Act

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NEWS RELEASE

Mark continues fight to pass Ukrainian redress legislation

(Ottawa) This evening in the House of Commons, debate continued on Bill C-331, the Ukrainian Canadian Restitution Act, marking the final hour of second reading debate.

Inky Mark, Conservative Member of Parliament from Dauphin-Swan River-Marquette who is the sponsor of the Bill said, "During World War I, the Canadian government unjustly interned more than 8,000 Canadians of Ukrainian and Eastern European heritage in labour camps throughout Canada. For 85 years the federal government has refused to acknowledge that this event occurred. My Bill is a resolution to the fight for recognition that has gone on for 20 years."

Bill C-331 has been endorsed by groups representing Canada's Ukrainian community. It has also been supported by the Conservative Party of Canada, the Bloc Québécois, the NDP as well as some Liberal MP's.

Speakers in favour of the Bill tonight were, the Hon. Stephen Harper, Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada, Bernard Bigras from the Bloc Québécois, Borys Wrzesnewskij of the Liberals, Joy Smith Conservative MP from Kildonan-St. Paul, and James Bezan, Conservative MP representing Selkirk Interlake.

Other than a Bill introduced to change the name of the riding, Mark is the only MP from Dauphin-Swan River-Marquette region to introduce a Private Members' Bill and to succeed in guiding it to 2nd reading. In a late development C-331 was given unanimous consent by the House of Commons to proceed to the Standing Committee of Culture and Heritage for review.

"It is time that the Liberal government deal with this issue. One million Ukrainian Canadians have waited too many years for the recognition that they deserve. The previous Prime Minister promised to correct this injustice and it was a promise broken. Will this Liberal government leave a similar legacy? Acknowledgement is not too much to ask. Canadians and the Liberal government must accept our history for what it is, learn from it, and give justice to those from the Ukrainian community," Mark concluded.

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