

MAYORS' MISSION TO POLAND – MARCH OF THE LIVING 2005

Recommendation

It is recommended that Mayor Michael Di Biase, Councillor Alan Shefman and communications co-ordinator Bruce Kurta travel to Poland from May 1, 2005 to May 6, 2005 for the 60th commemoration of V.E. Day and the liberation of prisoners of German concentration and death camps.

Purpose

Mayor Di Biase has been invited by the United Israel Appeal Federations of Canada and the March of the Living Canada to lead a group of mayors and municipal leaders to Poland for the March of the Living commemoration in May. As the lead elected official Mayor Di Biase will meet leaders from Poland as well as those traveling from around the world for this historic event. It is expected that 18,000 people worldwide will attend. The group will also visit three Nazi death camps including Auschwitz.

Background - Analysis and Options

The March of the Living organization has taken groups to Poland for the past fifteen years to help teach people of the events that took place 60 years ago in Europe. As survivors of that era are becoming fewer and fewer, it is expected that this will be one of the last times that a group of elected officials will be able to hear first hand accounts of living in Nazi ravaged Europe.

There will be approximately 40 mayors and elected officials from Canada traveling to Poland this spring.

United Israel Appeal has asked Mayor Di Biase to lead a delegation to Poland. The Mayor was a member of a group of municipal leaders that traveled to Israel in the spring of 2003. This trip will allow the municipal leaders to understand that period of time, thereby helping them to appreciate the history of so many of Canada's residents who were affected by the war. Vaughan's Jewish population consists of a heavy proportion of survivors and children of survivors.

This trip will give us an example of how a civilization can be torn apart very quickly if we are not vigilant - as has been demonstrated numerous times in the world over the past 60 years. Lessons, if not learned can spawn events such as the massacres in Rwanda.

The trip will allow the mayor and participants to meet with Polish government officials as well as historians. Planned meetings include meetings with the mayors of Warsaw and Krakow as well as the curator of the Auschwitz Centre.

Worldwide media coverage will be extensive, especially at the actual ceremonies on May 5, and Canadian media will focus on the Mayors' Mission as one of the lead groups in attendance.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This trip will help promote and understand the cultural diversity of our city.

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

Conclusion

The City of Vaughan delegation will be participating with officials of United Israel Appeal Federations of Canada and March of the Living International as well many mayors and municipal officials from across Canada. This trip is being subsidized by UIA Federations Canada resulting in a cost of \$1,000.00 for each participant which includes return airfare, all accommodations, meals and transfers. This cost will be covered by the participants.

The trip is from Sunday, May 1, 2005 through to Friday, May 6, 2005 during which time the participants will be absent.

Report prepared by:

Bruce Kurta, Communications Co-ordinator for the Mayor and Members of Council

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Di Biase
Mayor

Alan Shefman
Councillor

Attachment: Itinerary as set by March of the Living International

Sunday May 1 8-10 pm.

MARCH OF THE LIVING 2005

GROUP: NJ VARIOUS (S)
NO. OF PAX: 80
BUSES NO.:

NO. OF BUSES: 2

CONTACT PERSON: Shauna Waltman
GESHER REP.:

ARR.: Monday, May 2, 2005 - LOT 046 13:00

DEP.: Friday, May 6, 2005 - LOT 045 17:00

MONDAY 02 MAY		TUESDAY 03 MAY		WEDNESDAY 04 MAY		THURSDAY 05 MAY		FRIDAY 06 MAY		SATURDAY 07 MAY		SUNDAY 08 MAY		MONDAY 09 MAY	
6:00		6:00	wake-up breakfast	6:00	wake-up breakfast	6:00	wake-up breakfast	6:00	wake-up breakfast	6:00		6:00		6:00	
7:00		7:00	Depart for Lublin	7:00	breakfast	7:00	breakfast	7:00	breakfast	7:00		6:30		7:00	
8:00		8:00		8:00	Depart for Auschwitz	8:00	Rama Shul & Cemetery	8:00	Depart for Treblinka	8:00		8:00		8:00	
9:00		9:00		9:00		9:00	Schindler's Factory	9:00	Treblinka	9:00		9:00		8:30	
10:00		10:00	Prison	10:00		10:00	Depart for Auschwitz	10:00		10:00		10:00		9:00	
11:00		11:00	Box Lunch	11:00	Depart for Krakow	11:00		11:00		11:00		10:00		10:00	
12:00		12:00	Majdanek	12:00	Lunch	12:00	Box Lunch	12:00	Box Lunch	12:00		12:00		10:30	
13:00	Arrival in Warsaw	13:00		13:00		13:00	MARCH	13:00	Depart for Warsaw	13:00		12:30		11:00	
14:00	Tour Warsaw ghetto	13:30		14:00	Ghetto & Pharmacy	14:00		14:00		14:00		13:00		11:00	
15:00	umschiagplatz	14:00		15:00		15:00		15:00		15:00		14:00		12:00	
16:00	mila 18	15:00		16:00	Plaszow	16:00		16:00		16:00		15:00		12:00	
17:00	rapaport monument	16:30	Depart for Krakow	17:00		16:30	Tour Birkenau	17:00	Depart for Toronto	17:00		16:00		13:00	
18:00	Check-in	17:00		18:00		17:00		18:00		18:00		17:00		14:00	
19:00	Dinner	18:00		19:00	Dinner	18:00		18:00		18:00		18:00		15:00	
20:00	Evening Program	19:00		19:00	Evening Program	19:00	Express train to Warsaw	19:00		19:00		19:00		16:00	
21:00		20:00		20:00		20:00		20:00		20:00		20:00		17:00	
22:00		20:30		20:30	Evening Program	20:30		21:00		21:00		21:00		18:00	
23:00		21:00	Dinner	21:00		21:00		22:00		22:00		22:00		19:00	
		22:00	Evening Program	22:00		22:00		23:00		23:00		23:00		20:00	
		23:00		23:00		23:00								21:00	
DINN.	Warsaw	DINN.	Krakow	DINN.	Krakow	DINN.	Warsaw	DINN.		DINN.		DINN.		22:00	
O/N	Warsaw	O/N	Krakow	O/N	Krakow	O/N	Warsaw	O/N		O/N		O/N		23:00	
HTL		HTL		HTL		HTL		HTL		HTL		HTL			HTL