



MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

Meeting/Date	COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (2) - JANUARY 21, 2020
Title:	International Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom HaShoah)
Submitted by:	Hon. Maurizio Bevilacqua, P.C., Mayor
<p>Whereas, International Holocaust Remembrance Day is observed in Canada and countries around the world on January 27 to commemorate the genocide of more than six million Jews and other groups by the Nazi regime and its collaborators; and</p> <p>Whereas, On November 1, 2005, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 60/7 to designate January 27th as International Holocaust Remembrance Day which marks the anniversary of the 1945 liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp and honours the victims of the Holocaust; and</p> <p>Whereas, Holocaust Remembrance Day aligns with the priorities and values outlined in the Council approved 2018-2022 Service Excellence Strategic Plan, under Active, Safe and Diverse Communities;</p> <p>Whereas, in November 2019, the City of Vaughan led a trade mission to Israel to encourage job-creating trade, build alliances, pursue investments, support the growth of local companies and globally-recognized institutions that participated, and strengthen relations with Jewish and Israeli communities; and</p> <p>Whereas, during the trade mission to Israel, Members of Council visited Yad Vashem – Israel's official memorial to the victims of the Holocaust; and</p> <p>Whereas, the City of Vaughan is enriched by its thriving, active and engaged Jewish and Israeli communities and is home to one of the largest Jewish populations of Israel which includes many Holocaust survivors; and</p> <p>Whereas, the City of Vaughan has bestowed the Key to the City as well as the Order of Vaughan to Holocaust Survivor Max Eisen in recognition and appreciation for his remarkable efforts to eliminate racism and bigotry; and</p> <p>Whereas, the City of Vaughan proudly celebrates and observes Jewish dates of religious and historical significance including Jewish Heritage Month, a flag-raising ceremony for Yom Ha'atzmaut (also known as Israel Independence Day), Yom HaShoah, (also known as Holocaust Remembrance Day), as well as the City's annual Menorah Lighting Ceremony; and</p> <p>Whereas, on behalf of the City of Vaughan, the Mayor travelled with the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies on a delegation to visit and learn about the death camps in Europe, and as a result, the City has renewed its commitment to Holocaust education and the promotion of tolerance, justice and human rights for all; and</p>	

Whereas, various forms of antisemitism continue to exist in Canada and across the globe, the City of Vaughan must remain vigilant in its strong opposition to such acts in both word and deed. Let this proclamation serve as a call to action to encourage the citizens of Vaughan to learn more about the painful lessons of the Holocaust in a concerted effort to honour the victims and ensure that such atrocities never happen again.

It is therefore recommended:

- 1. That every January 27 be officially proclaimed Holocaust Remembrance Day in the City of Vaughan; and*
- 2. That the proclamation be posted on the City's website.*

Respectfully submitted,

Hon. Maurizio Bevilacqua, P.C.
Mayor