



Inky Mark, Member of Parliament
Vice Chair, Standing Committee on
Citizenship and Immigration
Dauphin-Swan River-Marquette

Bills C-331 and C-333

For Immediate Release

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NEWS RELEASE

Mark expects smooth sailing for C-331 and C-333

(Ottawa) With the Prime Minister recently announcing the creation of a program to deal with redress issues such as those of the Ukrainian Canadian and Chinese Canadian communities, Inky Mark, Member of Parliament for Dauphin-Swan River-Marquette expects that two of his Private Member's bills will now pass quickly through the House of Commons.

Said Mark, "The Prime Minister has announced his support for the redress of communities that suffered through wartime measures taken by the Canadian government. With this support, I look forward to the smooth passage of C-331 and C-333 (re-tabled in 2004 by Bev Oda, M.P.) in the House of Commons."

"A great deal of work and 20 years of waiting has gone into obtaining this acknowledgement. It is important for the federal government to enshrine Canada's commitment in legislation."

Bill C-331, also known as the Ukrainian Canadian Restitution Act, calls for the federal government to acknowledge and provide redress for those who were unjustly imprisoned in Canada during the First World War.

Passage of C-333 will provide recognition and redress (devoted to public education) for the injustice that was done to Canadians of Chinese descent. In 1885 Canada imposed a head tax on Chinese seeking to enter the country (up to \$500) and in 1923 the Government of Canada passed a law to prevent the immigration of Chinese to Canada.

Any funds coming from the federal government for redress would be used to promote education and tolerance.

"With all-party support, both pieces of legislation should be dealt with quickly. We agree that these bleak moments in our history must never be repeated. The Prime Minister's support ensures that this legislation will be upheld and sustained," Mark concluded.

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