



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

**Ukrainian and
Chinese Redress**

For Immediate Release

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**Mark re-introduces Ukrainian and
Chinese redress legislation**

(Ottawa) Today, in the House of Commons, Dauphin-Swan River-Marquette MP Inky Mark re-introduced his Private Member's Bill for the Ukrainian Canadian Restitution Act as well as the Chinese Canadian Recognition and Restitution Act.

Mark's Bill on Ukrainian redress calls on the federal government "*to recognize the injustice that was done to persons of Ukrainian descent and other Europeans who were interned at the time of the First World War and to provide public commemoration and for restitution, which is to be devoted to education and promotion of tolerance.*"

"In 1993, Jean Chrétien, Leader of the Liberal Party wrote in a letter that he was in favour of not only acknowledging the internment operations but also providing restitution to those who were held unjustly. It is long passed time for the Liberals to follow through on this promise," Mark stated.

Mark's other Bill, The Chinese Canadian Recognition and Restitution Act calls on the federal government to publicly recognize the circumstances surrounding the collection of a 'head tax' from Chinese immigrants and the passing of the Exclusion Act in 1923. The legislation would also see that some of the money collected from Chinese immigrants was returned. In turn, the money would be put into an educational foundation to promote racial harmony.

"Today, there are over 1 million Canadians of Chinese descent. The sacrifices and achievements of their forefathers must be acknowledged and commemorated in a proper manner."

Just prior to the 2004 federal election, candidates from all federal parties endorsed this legislation with members of the Conservative Party, the Bloc Quebecois, and the NDP supporting it unanimously.

"These Bills bring to the forefront two of the darkest moments in Canada's history. After years of delays and excuses, they deserve to be dealt with. It is this Liberal government's responsibility to make amends for past injustices," Mark concluded.

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