



CANADIAN • CROATIAN  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

13<sup>th</sup>  
*Annual*

Business Excellence  
*Awards Gala*

Recognizing Excellence in the  
Croatian-Canadian Community

April 17, 2015



ACCOUNTING  
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# Making a difference.

CIBC is proud to support the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce and its pursuit of leadership, innovation and excellence within the business community.



# Welcome



On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce, I am pleased to extend my sincerest greetings for the 13th Annual Business Excellence Awards. We are incredibly happy that you have joined us.

I'd like to congratulate everyone on making it through what I have found to be a particularly long winter. There were times I thought we wouldn't see the other side! Yet, here we are. The snow has melted, the days are growing longer, and we are yet again reminded that the cold does not last forever.

Even through such a long winter, the Chamber has had a number of shining moments. This year we have focused much of our attention on our youth programs. Most recently, we hosted, among other activities, a youth mentorship mixer in March. Students from many different fields of study were invited to meet and discuss their pressing career questions with professionals from various industry backgrounds. It was a huge success and we look forward to many more like it!

This Business Excellence Awards Evening marks the 13th year of celebrating the achievements of business leaders in our Croatian-Canadian community. Personally, I've never been a big believer in "Lucky Number 13". I have always lived with the belief that people make their own luck. And that's exactly what this year's nominees have done. Tonight we honor the vision, innovation, creativity and risk-taking of these business pioneers and we are thrilled that so many of you could come out to support them. Your constant support and presence within this community proves that our mantra has transformed into a reality: "Together, we make success!"

We wish our winners the best of luck and wish you all a splendid spring.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Marion". The signature is fluid and cursive.

John Marion  
President and Director  
Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce



PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

*I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the 13th Annual Business Excellence Awards hosted by the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce.*

*Over the past 20 years, the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce has advanced the interests of its membership by promoting trade relations between Canada and Croatia, organizing valuable networking opportunities, and sponsoring informational and cultural events.*

*Canada and Croatia share a strong bond as allies and economic partners. These ties are formalized in bilateral agreements, but thrive on the efforts of people like your members. Your personal connections to both Croatia and Canada make you key to developing trade between our two countries. Through investments internationally, as well as here at home, you are creating a legacy of innovation, entrepreneurship and cooperation.*

*Tonight's gala provides an opportunity to honour leadership, innovation, and excellence within this thriving business community. I would like to congratulate the award recipients on receiving this prestigious recognition of their achievements.*

*Please accept my best wishes for a memorable evening and for continued success.*

*The Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.*

OTTAWA  
2015



*I am honoured to have this opportunity to express my sincere congratulations to the recipients of the 2015 Business Excellence Awards, presented by the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce.*

*As members of the Canadian-Croatian community, you can be proud of your hard work, innovative ideas and dedication to your community which have made you a success in your business.*

*Earlier this year, I had the honour of representing the Government of Canada at the historic inauguration of Kolinda Grabar Kitarović, Croatia's first female president. During my visit I was fortunate to meet with a number of Croatian Canadian entrepreneurs, politicians and representatives of the new President's office. I was heartened to witness the existing cooperation between Canadian and Croatian entrepreneurs and to learn of their successes. I believe that there remains a great potential to broaden and deepen our economic cooperation. By continuing to build bridges we can increase prosperity for both Canadians and Croatians.*

*Your hard work and accomplishments are commendable – you have justly earned this prestigious recognition and honour.*

*My best wishes for continued success in all your future endeavours.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Lynne Yelich'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Lynne' being more prominent than the last name 'Yelich'.

*The Honourable Lynne Yelich, Privy Council  
Minister of State (Foreign Affairs & Consular)  
Member of Parliament for Blackstrap*



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Gouvernement du Canada  
Ambassade du Canada

Canadian Embassy Zagreb  
Prilaz Gjuro Dezelica 4  
10000 Zagreb

Dear CCCC Members,

It is, as always, my pleasure to send greetings from Zagreb to the valued members of the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce.

This has certainly been a busy and exciting year for Canadian-Croatian relations. I have had the honour to host a number of high-level visitors from Canada including the Hon. John Baird, then-Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Hon. Lynne Yelich, Minister of State for Consular and Foreign Affairs, Mr. Victor Dodig, President and CEO of CIBC, and Mr. Steve Verheul, Canada's Chief Negotiator for the Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). Additionally, I was very pleased that Darko Lorencin, the Croatian Minister of Tourism, visited Canada to promote direct flights between Toronto and Zagreb.

Each of these visits has helped to advance our relations in a variety of areas. One key theme resonated in each of these visits: the critical role of the Canadian-Croatian community in advancing bilateral economic relations.

This has also been a historic year, with the election of Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, Croatia's first female president. As many of you may be aware, President Grabar-Kitarović holds a special place in her heart for Canada, where she began her diplomatic career. I look forward to working with the new President and her team.

It has been a monumental year, with the conclusion of CETA negotiations, the most comprehensive trade agreement Canada has ever signed. For me as Canadian Ambassador to Croatia, I see CETA as a free trade agreement between Canada and Croatia. In order for the agreement to benefit both countries, companies must prepare today to gain a competitive advantage once the agreement comes into force. We are counting on associations such as the CCCC and CCBN to continue to be at the forefront and set an example for others.

Finally, it has been a successful year in particular for this year's Business Excellence Awards nominees and winners. I would like to congratulate you and thank you for the contribution you make to your community and to Canada. I look forward to continuing to work together with you and to see you in Croatia soon.

Yours sincerely,

Louise LaRocque  
Ambassador

Canada

QLGR0016



Premier of Ontario - Première ministre de l'Ontario



April 17, 2015

### **A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER**

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I am delighted to extend warm greetings to everyone attending the 13th Annual Business Excellence Awards of the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce.

As Premier, I recognize the importance of building a business climate that creates opportunities and supports success.

I want to commend the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce for its commitment to promoting Croatian Canadian entrepreneurs, innovators and community builders.

To everyone being honoured tonight, I offer my hearty congratulations. Your hard work, leadership and commitment to excellence help drive innovation, fuel Ontario's growth and reinforce our ties with Croatia and Croatian business communities across the globe.

Our government will continue to work with our diverse business communities to build on our people's talents and bring opportunities to everyone.

I offer my sincere best wishes for an enjoyable evening and much continued success.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kathleen Wynne'.

**Kathleen Wynne**  
**Premier**



*President of the Republic of Croatia*

*I am pleased to address you with this letter of greetings on the occasion of the traditional Annual Business Excellence Awards Evening of the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce. These awards honour all those who are committed to promoting and expanding economic ties between Croatia and Canada and all those individuals who, in their own special way, contribute to the Croatian-Canadian community and Canadian society as a whole.*

*I congratulate all award winners and am certain that the Awards will be an impetus not only to improve business relations, but also to preserve and develop cultural and historical ties of Croatian Canadians with the Homeland and nurture Croatian cultural traditions and customs.*

*I am quite certain, dear friends, that the business sector and entrepreneurs and, in particular, Croatian emigrants who played a major role in the establishment of the Croatian state, can take great initiatives in the area of international relations. During my service in the Embassy of the Republic of Croatia to Canada, I personally had the opportunity to witness the importance in number and influence of the Croatian emigrant population in Canada, both with respect to its contribution to Croatia's international reputation, and its articulation of Canadian policy towards the Republic of Croatia. Ladies and gentlemen, Croatia is grateful to you for this.*

*Today, as President of the Republic of Croatia, I would like to underline that I will not allow the merits of the Croatian diaspora for the establishment of the Croatian state and promotion of Croatia's commercial ties with the world to be neglected. I will work hard to promote the strengthening of Croatian communities worldwide, with the goal of developing stronger business, trade and investment relations with the states where they reside, and of creating a new community spirit between Croatia and Croatians living abroad.*

*This community spirit is indispensable as Croatia today is slowly creating prerequisites for boosting its economy so as to make its manufacturing sector the backbone of the economy, along with the optimization of all potentials and opening of jobs. Our objective is to achieve economic growth based on exports, which is necessarily linked to the industrialisation of the Croatian economy on a higher technological level. It is beyond doubt that this process requires cooperation with other states, foreign investments and new partners with business interests in Croatia.*

*My dear friends, this is where I see the role of the Croatian diaspora. Your know-how and experience are valuable to the Homeland and I call upon you to find new models of cooperation, together with the Canadian business community, bearing in mind that Canadian-Croatian economic relations, unlike their political relations, are far below the realistic potential.*

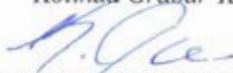
*I am confident that increased economic cooperation will pave the way for an overall deepening of Canadian-Croatian friendly relations. Favourable conditions for this do exist – for, there is no single reason why Croatia, given its many advantages, scenic spots, educated and talented work force, modern infrastructure and favourable geographic position, its NATO and European Union membership, should not become the fastest growing economy in this part of Europe.*

*The long-awaited Canada-EU Free Trade Agreement will certainly contribute to this. Once ratified in the parliaments of EU member states, the Agreement will help increase trade and mutual investments, boost economic growth and employment, as well as strengthen Canadian-European political dialogue in all fields.*

*Dear Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce members, my dear friends, I invite you to see for yourself the new development opportunities in the Croatian economy. I will accompany and encourage you on any issue or initiative you may have and am confident that together we can contribute to a more intensified development of economic and friendly relations between our countries.*

*Wishing success in your business and private affairs, and thanking the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce for its continued contribution to economic cooperation, please accept, dear friends, the assurances of the sincere friendship of the Croatian people and my own.*

Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović



PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA  
PRIME MINISTER

*It gives me a great pleasure, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Croatia and my own, to extend sincere greetings to the President and all members and supporters of the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce on the occasion of the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Excellence Awards Gala, which brings together prominent and respected members of the Croatian- Canadian community.*

*I would like to congratulate the Chamber on its vision and commitment in organizing this event that celebrates leadership, innovation and excellence in promoting Croatian-Canadian business ties as well as overall bilateral relations between our two countries. I also believe new seasonal direct flight from Toronto to Zagreb, starting this June, will contribute to further strengthening business and cultural activities between Croatia and Canada.*

*We want Croatia to become a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy. Thus, my Government remains fully committed to improve competitive business and investment environment and to further strengthen institutional capacity and cooperation between central and local institutions in attracting foreign investments. Moreover, the Comprehensive Trade and Economic Agreement between Canada and the European Union will open up new possibilities for expanding trade and investment between Croatia and Canada.*

*Finally, I join the congratulations to this year's award recipients and wish you every success in your further endeavors.*

*Zoran Milanović*

**EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA  
OTTAWA**



*On behalf of the Embassy of the Republic of Croatia to Canada and in my personal capacity I would like to extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Excellence Awards Evening. In particular, I would like to express my most sincere congratulations to all the Recipients of the 2015 Business Excellence Award. Special gratitude goes to each and every Member of the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce.*

*The Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce has provided numerous networking opportunities between Croatian and Canadian business leaders. You have always been there for Croatia and we will continue counting on you. Your unwavering support to Croatia and your contributions towards building a positive image of Croatia in Canada will continue to be appreciated. We stand proud of your achievements. You are a great asset to Croatia!*

*Being warmed and honoured by the opportunity to address you, allow me to extend my invitation and express several of my sincerest wishes. Please, do not forget to visit Croatia; do not forget to bring your relatives; and most importantly, do not forget to talk to your friends and acquaintances about Croatia and about the cherished memories and moments you experienced there. Consider investing or at least buying an apartment or a house in this youngest member of the European Union. Moreover, I encourage you to explore the opportunities offered by the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement between the European Union and Canada. Please, consider buying Croatian products whenever you can and tell your neighbours about them. With the help of Canadian Croats, the export of Croatian products to Canada has doubled in the last three years. With your help, we can redouble it again in the upcoming three years.*

*Let me reiterate that the political relations between Croatia and Canada are excellent. Let us continue advancing and not spare a single effort in building greater economies and strong bonds among our nations. As a direct result of our combined efforts, the number of Canadian tourists has also doubled in the last five years. Many times they went to Croatia with modest expectations yet came back thrilled and full of great memories. They talk kindly about Croats, about our culture, beautiful and clean Croatian cities, blue, stunning Adriatic, great versatile cuisine and amazing variety of wines. Please do not forget to tell those who are still hesitant and think about Croats as an entirely new nation, that Croatia is one of only eight countries in Europe to bear exactly the same name in the year 2000 as it did in the year 1000. We have grounds for pride in our heritage.*

*I am proud and honoured to have been serving as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Croatia to Canada since April 2011. My wife Marta, our children Matthew Mate, Anthony Ante, Ana Maria and I will cherish each dear moment spent with you. Despite being far away from our Homeland, you always made us to feel at home.*


*Yours ever,*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Veslko Grubisic', followed by a horizontal line.

*H.E. Veselko Grubišić, B. Eng., MSc IR*

*Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Croatia to Canada*

*Permanent Representative of the Republic of Croatia to the International Civil Aviation Organization*

  
*Consul General of the Republic of Croatia*  
*Consul Général de la République de Croatie*  
*Mississauga*

*Dear Friends,*

*On behalf of the Consulate General of the Republic of Croatia I am pleased to extend greetings and warmest wishes to the Canadian–Croatian Chamber of Commerce for yet another successful Annual Business Excellence Awards ceremony.*

*I feel proud to be a Croat here in Canada witnessing how the Croatian-Canadian Business Community is recognized both in Canada and in Croatia. We should use its full potential in developing a stronger and deeper future cooperation between business people in Canada and Croatia. It is our diaspora and business people in particular who build the strongest bridges between our two friendly countries and we should cherish every step they make in the direction of bringing our two countries and peoples closer to each other.*

*I have to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce for advancing the interests of its members and at the same time working on the promotion of Croatia here in Canada. They have really accomplished a lot, but there is still a lot of work ahead of us and I am sure that through the full potential of the members of the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce we can achieve even more.*

*It is my pleasure and privilege to extend on this occasion our heartfelt congratulations to the winners of this year's Excellence Awards and to show them our recognition and support.*

*Please accept my best wishes for an enjoyable celebration and for a continued success in the years to come.*

*Sincerely yours,*



*Andrea Javor*  
*Consul General*

A stylized, handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.



**MAYOR BERRY VRBANOVIC**  
200 King Street West, P.O. Box 1118  
Kitchener, ON N2G 4G7  
Phone: 519.741.2300 Fax: 519.741.2800  
mayor@kitchener.ca

Dear friends / Dragi prijatelji,

It gives me great pleasure, as the newly elected Mayor of Kitchener, to extend warm greetings to everyone attending the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards evening. In particular, I would like to express my sincere congratulations to all the nominees and recipients of the 2015 Business Excellence awards.

I look forward to joining each of you, and our Premier, Kathleen Wynne that evening as we not only celebrate the recipients of the award, but also the ongoing work of the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce throughout the year. I continually am impressed with the level and quality of activities organized by the Chamber both here in Canada and in Croatia in order to enhance business relationships between our two countries.

As a Croatian-born, Canadian community leader, I am immensely proud of the work done over the years by countless individuals of Croatian descent to fully integrate as a Canadian-Croatian community into the communities within which we live. Whether through business, politics, arts & culture, sports, philanthropy and in countless other ways, Canadian-Croatians have played an exemplary role in building our new home Canada as one of the best nations in the world in which to live, work and play.

Congratulations to John and the entire board of Directors, Wanita and all the volunteers on making this event the huge success that it has become.

Uz srdačan pozdrav / Sincerely,

Berry Vrbanovic  
Mayor





***Personal Message from Mayor Bonnie Crombie***

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the City of Mississauga and Members of Council, I would like to acknowledge the members, volunteers and leadership of the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce on organizing the *13<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Excellence Awards*.

This award ceremony celebrates the accomplishments of Canadian-Croatian entrepreneurs – men and women with the vision, knowledge, and determination that transformed ideas into successful businesses.

The nominees and award recipients have helped create employment opportunities. Their talents continue to make positive, important and lasting contributions to the economies of communities like Mississauga. Congratulations to all the winners being celebrated this evening; they have rightly earned their recognition.

In closing, I offer my sincerest best wishes to the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce on hosting another successful event to celebrate the accomplishments of local entrepreneurs and thriving businesses.

Warmest Regards,

Bonnie Crombie, MBA, ICD.D  
Mayor, City of Mississauga



### Greetings from Mayor Rick Goldring

Dear friends and members of the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce,

On behalf of Burlington City Council, I am pleased to bring you greetings and warm wishes on this evening's festivities as you celebrate the 13th Annual Business Excellence Awards Gala.

I would like to commend the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce for its work as a not-for-profit network of Croatian-Canadian businesses, professionals and organizations that serves as the voice of Croatian-Canadian business in Canada.

Tonight's awards ceremony plays an important role in formally recognizing leadership, innovation and excellence within the Croatian-Canadian community and significant contributions by Croatian-Canadians to Canadian society as a whole.

Economic development is a key priority for Burlington. A strong business community is the foundation of a thriving city. I invite your members to connect with the Burlington Economic Development Corporation to discuss expanding or relocating your business to our great city.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Goldring". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rick Goldring, Mayor  
City of Burlington



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

FRED EISENBERGER  
MAYOR OF HAMILTON

On Behalf of the City of Hamilton, it is my pleasure to welcome you the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce, 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Excellence Awards evening on Friday April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Tonight's event recognizes leadership, innovation and excellence within the Croatian-Canadian business community.

In addition to providing networking opportunities to its members, the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce plays an integral role in the development of bilateral trade relations between Canada and Croatia, as well as being proud community supporters.

I would like to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of the organizers and volunteers who play a vital role to ensure an enjoyable evening.

Best wishes for a successful and enjoyable event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred Eisenberger".

Fred Eisenberger  
Mayor





### *Canadian Croatian Chamber of Commerce*

*Since 2010 the Canadian-Croatian Business Network has had the objective* to promote and maximize economic ties between Canada and Croatia. With over 50 active members / companies in Croatia the collective voice of the CCBN has become more and more relevant. As an active representative of Canadian-Croatian economic interests the CCBN has contributed to many initiatives occurring since 2010 that have generated positive changes and facilitated in increased economic development between Canada and Croatia. These initiatives include the following:

1. Removal of VISA requirements between Canada and Croatia
2. How To Do Business in Croatia Seminar 2010
3. Croatian Trade Mission to Canada 2010
4. CCBN Canada Day BBQ (2010 – 2014)
5. CCBN Business Luncheon 2012 – Guest Speaker Honorable Andrew Scheer, MP, Speaker of the House of Commons in Canada
6. CCBN supports and participates in Joint Chamber Initiative in Croatia (2012 – 2015)
7. How To Do Business in Canada Seminar 2013
8. Croatian Trade Mission to Canada 2013
9. CCBN Business Luncheon 2014 with Guest Speakers from CIBC: Mr. Gerald T. McCaughey, President and CEO, and Mr. Victor G. Dodig, Senior Executive Vice-President, and Group Head, Wealth Management
10. CCBN Seminar – Communication Day's

The above initiatives and continued support of all members has established the CCBN as a relevant partner and point of contact for all who wish to improve business opportunities or increase economic development related to both Canada and Croatia. A strong cooperation with the Canadian Croatian Chamber of Commerce has insured effective dialogue and solutions that have promoted positive change and improvements.

The CCBN strongly believes that this approach is the ideal way to improve economic conditions and to develop increased trade between Canada and Croatia. With the support of our members, open and responsible communication and recognition for quality initiatives we believe that much more success will be achieved in the years to come.

We thank all who have supported us and hope that the economic future will only become better for all of who believe in a better and stronger Croatia and Canada.

*Sincerely,*

*Joe Bašić*

*President of the Canadian-Croatian Business Network (CCBN)*



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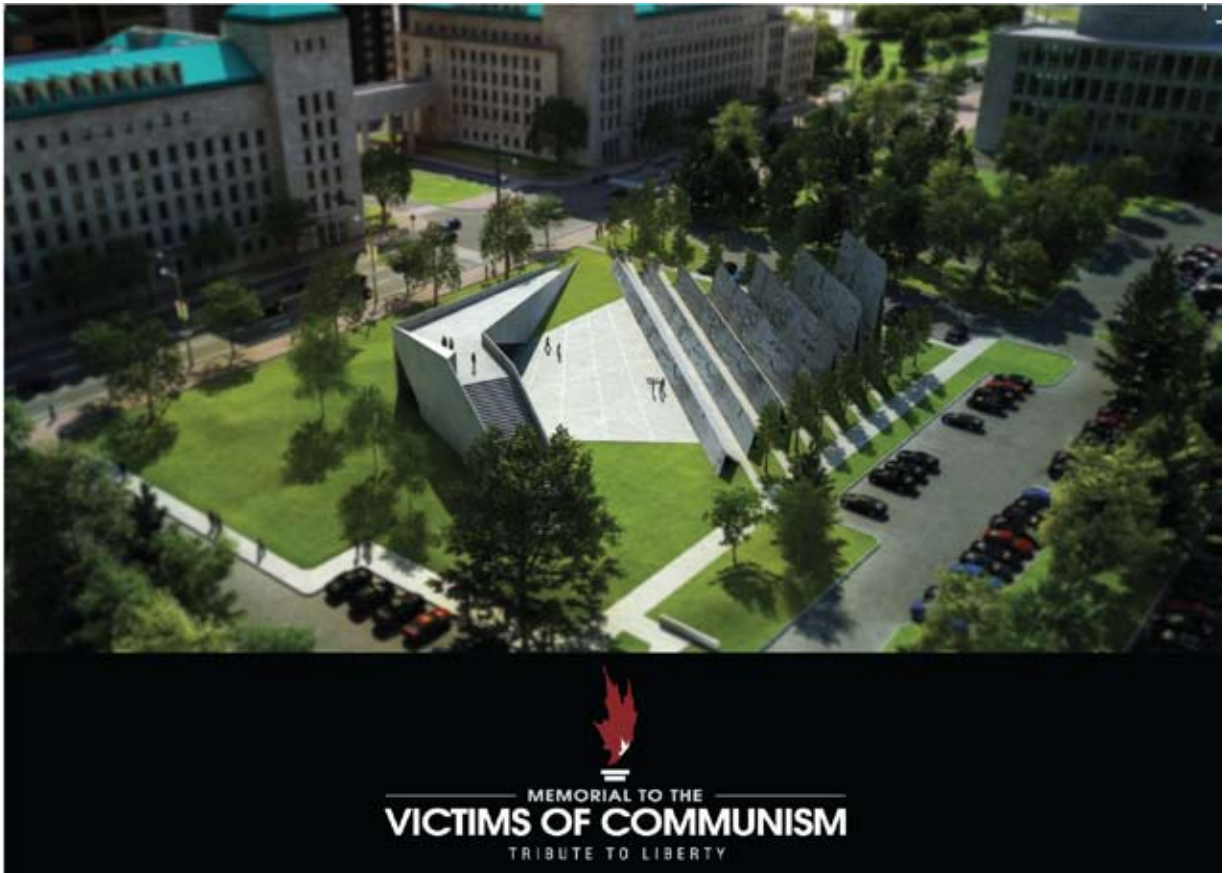
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## To Remember & Educate

The Memorial to the Victims of Communism, scheduled to be unveiled in the Fall of 2015 in Ottawa, Ontario (near the Supreme Court of Canada), will memorialize the millions of victims of Communism and those who fled terror and repression to find refuge in Canada.

The Memorial honours the essential contributions of the victims and their descendants to the growth and development of Canada and will remind and educate future generations about the suffering endured under repressive Communist regimes.

Memorials are essential parts of a Nation's history, reminding future generations of events and those who gave of themselves to ensure a better future for others.

In Canada, over 8 million people trace their roots to countries that suffered under Communism.

Since the beginning of the first Communist regime in 1917, immigrants from Communist countries have flocked to Canada, a Land of Refuge, in search of freedom and safety.

As the Communist Iron Curtain descended upon the frontiers of Eastern and Central Europe at the close of the Second World War, millions attempted to flee Communist terror, murder, ethnic cleansing and repression. Hundreds of thousands found refuge in Canada after leaving their family and homelands.

During the late 1970's, Canada welcomed nearly 70,000 refugees from Communist-ruled Vietnam. Citizens of Cuba, North Korea, and China continue to flee to Canada looking for human rights and freedoms. For these victims and many others, Canada represents stability, peace, democracy, and above all liberty.

The Memorial to the Victims of Communism will memorialize the experience of millions of Canadians, and their families, who endured tremendous suffering and long-term trauma under Communism. It will raise Canadian and international awareness of "the most colossal case of political carnage in history" (The Black Book of Communism), so that Canadians and the world never forget the victims of Communism.

*Visit [www.tributetoliberty.ca](http://www.tributetoliberty.ca) – to contribute to the Memorial and to ensure that the world never forgets the suffering endured under Communism, call Ludwik Klimkowski, Chair, Tribute to Liberty at (613) 841-2772 or speak to Ivan Grbešić, Director, Tribute to Liberty*

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## We Make It Our Business To Make Our Communities Stronger

Living and working in your community, MNP recognizes the importance of organizations like the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce in celebrating leadership, innovation and excellence within the Croatian-Canadian community locally and nationally. We congratulate the recipients of this year's Business Excellence Awards and applaud your contribution.

At MNP, we believe in protecting what's important to our clients and communities—our children, our families and the enterprises that support them. Leveraging our experience working with diverse organizations across the country, MNP delivers a full suite of solutions tailored to help you achieve your unique business goals.

**Contact Joe Draganjac at 905.270.9154 or [joe.draganjac@mnp.ca](mailto:joe.draganjac@mnp.ca)**

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## About the Chamber

Founded in 1995, the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce is a not-for-profit network of Croatian-Canadian businesses, professionals and organizations that has emerged as the voice of Croatian-Canadian business in Canada.

The Chamber brings together a vibrant and dynamic group of businesses, professionals and organizations who have developed strategic relationships in both Canadian and Croatian economic, commercial, political, and cultural worlds and is able to draw on these relationships to the benefit of its members.

### The Chamber's objectives include:

- Providing networking opportunities both in a social and business setting
- Sponsoring and promoting cultural events, educational lectures, seminars, exhibitions, and conferences on relevant and timely topics
- Acting as a source of information and counsel to government bodies and the public in matters affecting Canada-Croatia business and trade and the Croatian-Canadian community in Canada in general
- Promoting the development of bilateral business relations, trade, and investment opportunities between Canada and Croatia and working with the Canadian-Croatian Business Network, the Croatian Chamber of Economy and other organizations on opportunities that advance our common goals and interests

Beyond the wide variety of benefits that the Chamber offers to its members (including business connections, access to government, professional development), membership increases your business' visibility and exposure in the community.

Your investment represents a commitment to the future growth and development of our whole community.

*Together, we make success!*

# *The Chamber's recent achievements include:*

## Business Opportunities

- Providing networking opportunities through business, community and social events
- Connecting members with members to facilitate significant trade and commerce
- Organizing various educational and business related seminars including co-organizing (in affiliation with the Canadian-Croatian Business Network which is based in Croatia) the Croatian trade missions to Canada in fall of 2011 and spring of 2013 in Toronto

## Youth Involvement

- Supporting our youth through a scholarship and bursary fund
- Establishing a mentorship program for Croatian-Canadian post-secondary students and recent graduates
- Placing co-op students with Chamber members

## Community Involvement

- Working with and supporting local Croatian organizations and endeavours, including, among others, the Croatian-Canadian Library, various folklore groups, and the Croatian Consulate, to preserve our common heritage
- Promoting community events and news through our community web portal at [www.croat.ca](http://www.croat.ca)
- Recognizing excellence and leadership in the Croatian-Canadian community through the annual Business Excellence Awards Evening
- Supporting and promoting Croatian-Canadian artists and authors
- Financially contributing to Croatian demining program

## Advocacy and Lobbying

- Educating Canadians on our history in Canada through support of historical research and representation at relevant Canadian organizations
- Building ties with Croatia by receiving and hosting Croatian representatives visiting Canada, attending meetings with contacts in Croatia, and presenting at business seminars in Croatia

# Looking back at some activities over the last year

May, 2014



12th Annual Business Excellence Awards

September, 2014



12th Annual Taste of Croatia Golf Tournament

December, 2014



Community Celebration – Hrvatski Božić

February, 2015



Official Launch of SkyGreece Airlines Direct Flights between Toronto/Zagreb

March, 2015



Youth Mentorship Mixer

March, 2015



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# Agenda for the Evening

- 6:00 PM Cocktail Reception  
Opening Bids for Silent Auction
- 7:15 PM Welcome Address, Ivan Grbešić  
National Anthems, Danijela and Julijana Hajdinjak
- 7:30 PM Keynote Address, The Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario
- 8:15 PM Scholarship and Bursary Awards Presentation  
Special Award of Recognition to Victor Dodig, President and CEO, CIBC
- 9:15 PM Awards Ceremony
- 10:30 PM Raffle Closes
- 11:00 PM Final Bids for Silent Auction

## Featured Performers

### Danijela and Julijana Hajdinjak

Danijela and Julijana have recently joined the North American Croatian music scene. Entertaining at weddings, festivals and banquets, the two sisters have shared the stage with notable Croatian artists including Mate Bulić and the tambura group Gazde. If you are interested in booking them for an event, please contact Henry Hajdinjak at [henry.hajdinjak@gmail.com](mailto:henry.hajdinjak@gmail.com).

### Plavi Dim

Plavi Dim has been entertaining Croatian audiences across North America for over 25 years. The six-piece ensemble provides musical entertainment for events of all kinds, primarily weddings, but also banquets, private parties and festivals. If you are interested in booking them for an event, please contact Nick Pocrnić at (289) 813-1611 or [info@plavidim.com](mailto:info@plavidim.com); you can also visit them at [www.facebook.com/plavidim](http://www.facebook.com/plavidim).

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Conversation!



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# Keynote Speaker



## The Honourable Kathleen Wynne

Premier of Ontario  
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs  
MPP Don Valley West

Kathleen Wynne is Ontario's 25th Premier and the first woman to serve in that role.

She was first elected to the Ontario legislature in 2003 as the MPP for Don Valley West and was re-elected in 2007, 2011 and 2014. She became the leader of the Ontario Liberal Party in January 2013.

In addition to her role as Premier, she currently serves as Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs. She has also served as Minister of Agriculture and Food. Some of her key achievements as Premier and Minister of Agriculture and Food include a new Youth Jobs Strategy, record investment in transit and transportation, a jobs plan to attract and keep businesses in Ontario, and a Local Food Act.

Prior to becoming Premier, she served as Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Minister of Transportation and Minister of Education. As the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, she finalized a new funding agreement with the federal government to improve access to affordable housing.

In her role as Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, she worked in partnership with First Nations communities to address issues such as mining development and First Nations land claims, and improving the quality of life for aboriginal peoples living off-reserve through affordable housing and recreation programs.

As Minister of Education, she led the government's efforts to reduce class sizes, implement full-day kindergarten and provide more opportunities for high school students to reach their full potential.

During her tenure as Minister of Transportation, she secured a new transit expansion plan for Toronto, including the Eglinton-Scarborough LRT. She also oversaw Ontario's largest highway investments, including the Highway 407 East Extension and the Windsor-Essex Parkway.

Before becoming an MPP, she served as a trustee with the Toronto District School Board. And prior to that, she has led citizens' groups in a number of grassroots community projects and played a major role as an organizer and facilitator.

# Marija Barač Jandrić

Marija Barač Jandrić, visual artist  
tel:416-269-6563  
marijab@mbjart.com  
www.mbjart.com

Born in Livno, Bosnia and Hercegovina, Marija Barač Jandrić moved to Canada in 1986, right after graduating from the University of Zagreb, where she studied Surveying Engineering. Marija spent several years working as a surveyor in Toronto before going back to school to pursue her life long passion and love for art.

In 1996, she completed her studies at OCA (Ontario College of Art) graduating with honors in Drawing and Painting. During her studies, Marija was a recipient of The Foundation Studies Faculty Award. While still in her fourth year of college, her art was already being bought by collectors, including Peter and Melanie Munk of Barrick Gold, and Horsham Corporation.

Marija has been involved in the Toronto artist community since the early nineties, helping establish and run Propeller Center for The Visual Arts in 1996, an important artist run center to this day, as well as spending a few years on the Board of Directors at The Scarborough Arts Council.

Marija was also involved in the Croatian Canadian Artist Society, as well as CCIC (Croatian Canadian Information Congress).

Since graduation from OCAD, Marija has been working as a free lance artist, as well as a part time art instructor. In 2011, she was awarded special recognition by The Centre for Community Living in Etobicoke, for her work with people with mental disabilities, for helping them to develop expression and communication, as well as self confidence, using art as a medium.



Marija believes in art as a universal common language between all people regardless of their differences. In her classroom a university professor or a CEO often sits next to the person with Ashperger syndrome, or a non verbal intellectually delayed man or a woman, finding joy and understanding through color and shape in each others company.

She has seen first hand the humanizing effect of creativity on all of us.

Marija lives and works in Toronto, Ontario. She is currently represented by the Canadian Fine Arts Gallery in Toronto ([www.canadianfinearts.com](http://www.canadianfinearts.com)).



# Award Print

By: Marija Barać Jandrić



Meadow (Zelina near Zagreb), oil on canvas

As an artist and a first generation immigrant, I have always been intrigued by the concept of a homeland as an aspect of one's identity.

What is the connection between a person and the land, and how flexible or transferable is our sense of belonging to a place, to some dot on the world's map? In my art practice I explore possibilities of landscape both as an image, and as a language, to approach this subject.

In the context of the social and political trends, the concept of identity and belonging has been in the state of flux for some time. Mass migrations of people, driven mostly by the hope of a better life, is resulting in an unprecedented degree of mixing of different races, ethnicities, religions, and cultures, pushing the issues of identity and belonging into the mainstream globally. The topic of identity has been an important area for study, research and analysis by science, but also a fertile ground for artists, for some time.

In an ethnically diverse country like Canada, a sense of this country's landscape is important and it represents a common identity for all Canadians, which is reflected in the Canadian art, both traditional as well as contemporary.

In Croatian and Bosnian culture where I come from, homeland is often placed above everything else. We sing songs to "Domovina", our hymn is an expression of love for the land, and an ode to the beauty of the land. Where ever we go in the world, we always feel that pull, that invisible thread tugging at our hearts and souls filling us with longing and desire.

Croatia to Croatians is a sweet and gentle concept of meadows and pastures, rivers and mountains, fields of golden crops, and trees full of fruit. Croatia is rooted in our psyche as deeply as the deepest corners of the Adriatic sea.

My painting "Meadow (Zelina near Zagreb)" is intended as a poetic visual expression of that sentiment, a sort of meditation on the concept of Domovina/ Homeland.

An image of a lush meadow, a hill studded with houses, ploughed fields, and gentle stands of trees and shrubs edging the view, endless sky filling the scene with a warm glow of the early autumn light ... these are all potent symbols in the collective consciousness of people who are connected to the land. The little house on the hill represents an idea, a dream most of us have about eventually settling down over there. It's a romantic notion of hope, peace and stability in the unpredictable, ever changing world.

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At the Chamber, we take pride in our ability and commitment to help students of Croatian descent pave their path in life by offering our Youth Mentoring Program to assist in planning for their future.

The Youth Mentoring Program was established to offer post-secondary students with an opportunity to communicate with professionals and entrepreneurs in order to discuss career aspirations, work initiatives, and other career related matters. The program has been extremely well received and has benefited both the students and the Mentor volunteers. Matches are established based on the students' career aspirations, interests, location, and other factors.

Mentors participating in the Youth Mentoring Program are carefully selected individuals who have proven themselves successful in their careers and/or businesses, and who support the endeavours of the program to provide a service of high standards and quality, and are prepared to make time available to assist our youth in making career related decisions.

Should you feel you fit the profile of a Mentor and you would like to get involved in the program, please e-mail the following details to [contactus@croat.ca](mailto:contactus@croat.ca). (name and surname, telephone number, email address, business address, and area of expertise) and we will contact you in due course.



Together, we make success!

# Croatian-Canadian Scholarship Fund



**“ A \$2,000 scholarship  
and two \$1,500  
bursaries will  
be awarded... ”**

The Croatian-Canadian Scholarship Fund is a joint program developed and administered by the Croatian-Canadian Library and the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce.

We take great pride in our ability and commitment to help further the education of full-time post-secondary students in Canada.

Scholarship and bursaries will be awarded to students enrolled in a full-time post-secondary program at a university or college in Canada.

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For details about the Croatian-Canadian Scholarship Fund,  
please visit [www.croat.ca](http://www.croat.ca)

The application submission deadline for the 2015/2016 school year  
is February 1, 2016.

# Croatian-Canadian Scholarship Fund: Scholarship and Bursary Award Recipients (2014/2015)

We are pleased to announce the Croatian-Canadian Scholarship Fund has awarded two (2) scholarships and two (2) bursaries for the 2014/2015 school year. The funds have been awarded in order to help further the education of full-time post-secondary students in Canada. Congratulations to each of the recipients.



**Julijana Hajdinjak**

\$2,000 Scholarship Award Recipient

Julijana attends Wilfrid Laurier University, studying Vocal Performance and Composition. While an active choir and Composers Union member, Julijana is also a private piano and voice teacher. She is a winner of the HKD Napredak Festival as well as a volunteer at the Canadian Croatian Library. In 2013, Julijana was honoured with the opportunity to perform with the Rolling Stones.



**Maja Petrović**

\$2,000 Scholarship Award Recipient

Maja, a student at the University of Toronto, is pursuing her degree in Criminology & Political Science with a minor in Sociology. She is Vice President of the UFT Young Liberals, a UFT Campus Experience Coach, and a mentor with the UFT Mentor Program. Maja is also an active participant in Mladifest.



**Nina Omerović**

\$1,500 Bursary Award Recipient

Nina is currently a student at Humber College, majoring in Food & Nutrition with a minor in Food & Nutrition Management. Nina is a volunteer for International Development Week, The Marketplace, and a member of the Canadian Association of Foodservice Professionals and the Canadian Society of Nutrition Management. While supporting her studies, Nina is working at Bronte Natural Health clinic where she applies her experience and knowledge to support patients with nutrition based lifestyle therapies.



**Stefanie Petrina**

\$1,500 Bursary Award Recipient

Stephanie is pursuing her Bachelor of Education at Brock University with a minor in Geography. She is an active member of Hamilton Croatia and in addition to volunteering at the Brock University Reading Clinic, also volunteers at various Catholic elementary and secondary schools. Stephanie enjoys soccer, bocce, dodge ball and beach volleyball.

# Croatian-Canadian Scholarship Fund

## DONOR RECOGNITION LEVELS



**KING TOMISLAV (\$100,000+)** - King Tomislav was a ruler of Croatia in the Middle Ages. He reigned from 910 until 928, first as Duke of Dalmatian Croatia from 910 until 925, and then he became the first King of the Croatian Kingdom in 925 and reigned until 928. He is celebrated as the founder of the first Croatian state, uniting the Croats of Dalmatia and the Slavs of Pannonia into a single Kingdom. He ruled over the territory of today's Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, rounding off his state from the Adriatic Sea to the Drava River, and from the Raša River in Istria to the Drina River.



**QUEEN JELENA (\$50,000-\$99,999)** - Jelena of Zadar was the queen consort of the Kingdom of Croatia, as the wife of King Michael Krešimir II, from 946 to 969, a period which was allegedly marked by "peace, order and expeditious growth". She became the queen of Croatia after her husband died and reigned until her death in 976. Also known as "mother of orphans and protectress of widows", she was revered by her subjects and most adored for her charity and known for bringing peace to the Kingdom.



**KING PETAR KREŠIMIR IV (\$25,000-\$49,999)** - Petar Krešimir IV was a notably energetic King of Croatia from 1059 until his death in 1075. He was the last great ruler of the Krešimirović branch of the House of Trpimirović. Under his rule the Croatian realm reached its peak territorially, expanding Croatia along the Adriatic coastland and in the mainland eastwards and bringing Slavonia into the Croatian fold. This expansion earned him the sobriquet "the Great".



**KING DMITAR ZVONIMIR (\$10,000-\$24,999)** - Dmtar Zvonimir was King of Croatia from 1076 until his death. He also ruled as Ban of Slavonia (1064 to 1074), and was named Duke of Croatia in around 1075. His native name was Zvonimir, while the name Dmtar was adopted at his coronation. He took a hard line against the Byzantine Empire. He was the last native king who exerted any real power over the entire Croatian state, which he inherited at its height and ruled it from the city of Knin.



**PRINCE BRANIMIR (\$5000-\$9,999)** - Branimir was a ruler of Dalmatian Croatia who reigned as Knez from 879 to 892. He was recognized by Pope John VIII as the Duke of the Croats. During his reign, Croatia retained its sovereignty from both Frankish and Byzantine rule, and became a fully recognized state.



**NIKOLA ŠUBIĆ ZRINSKI (\$2500-\$4999)** - Nikola Šubić Zrinski was a Croatian nobleman and general in service of the Habsburg Monarchy, Ban of Croatia from 1542 to 1556, and member of the Zrinski noble family. He was known across Europe for his involvement with the Battle of Szigetvár and is today seen as a hero by both Hungarians and Croatians.



**VICEROY JOSIP JELAČIĆ (\$1,000-\$2499)** - Viceroy Josip Jelačić of Bužim was the Ban of Croatia from 1848 to 1859. He was a member of the House of Jelačić and a noted army general, remembered for his military campaigns during the Revolutions of 1848 and for his abolition of serfdom in Croatia. On April 19, 1848, he proclaimed the union of Croatian provinces, and the separation from the Kingdom of Hungary.



**MARKO MARULIĆ (\$500-\$999)** - Marko Marulić (1450-1524) was a Croatian moral philosopher and poet and Christian humanist, known as the Crown of the Croatian Medieval Age and the father of the Croatian Renaissance. He is one of the most important figures in Croatian literature. He was also the first to use the term "psychology" in his Latin treatise, *Psichologia de ratione animae humanae*.

## Croatian-Canadian Scholarship Fund

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### MARKO MARULIĆ (\$500 - \$999)

Biskupović, Miro and Maya  
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Franković, Mario

Kovač, Ryan A.  
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**WE LOOK FORWARD TO ADDING YOUR NAME TO THIS LIST!**

**PLEASE HELP SUPPORT OUR YOUTH.**

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To contribute to the Croatian-Canadian Scholarship Fund,  
please visit [www.croat.ca](http://www.croat.ca) or call 416-641-2829.

All donations towards the project are eligible for a tax receipt  
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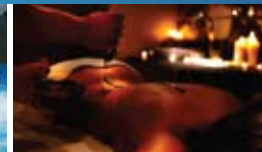
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**STIKEMAN ELLIOTT**

**The World Health Organization reports that healthcare and Medical & Wellness Tourism will be the world's largest industry by 2030 and will represent 22% of the world GDP.**



**Mayor Ernest Svazic, Dr. Darlene Gustin and Frank Vismeg**



**Leila Kresic-Juric, Frank Vismeg and Ivana Kolar**

This year, the fifth annual International Health Tourism Conference by HTI was held in Krapinske Toplice, Croatia from March 12-14, 2015. Croatia's abundance of natural resources are quickly becoming an international attraction, offering unique and tremendous business opportunities for economic growth from wellness tourism, was hosted by His Worship Mayor Ernest Svazic of Krapinske Toplice. Please visit: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gFnqlv\\_9Ppo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gFnqlv_9Ppo) for more info.

"Croatia has the infrastructure in the area of quality within healthcare and hospitality to become a leader in Europe in medical and wellness tourism". These are the words of Jonathan Edelheit, CEO of the Medical Tourism Association and the keynote speaker of the 5th HTI Conference. This year's Conference brought together speakers and participants from over 16 countries around the world, from Canada to Sudan, which is also a confirmation of the attractiveness of Croatian providers as relevant partners in the development of Croatian image as a health tourism destination. The 5th HTI Conference was under the endorsement of the Croatian President, Mrs. Kolinda Grabar Kitarovic and Ministry of Health, Ministry of Tourism and Krapina - Zagorje county. On behalf of the Government of Canada, Mrs. Lisa Raitt, member of Parliament for Halton, sent here congratulations for the years of continued success.

In attendance included Mr. Frank Vismeg, known globally for his career as a hotelier where he has managed hotels for various chain hotels including Hilton, Marriott, Sheraton and Intercontinental hotel brands and the green hotel movement, and former president of Skål International Toronto North/Hamilton and Dr. Darlene Gustin, who became the first Canadian to achieve the international certificate of Certified Medical & Wellness Tourism Professional. Also in attendance was Skålleagues from Skål Club Zagreb Ms. Leila Kresic-Juric, member of the Tourism Committee of Croatian Chamber of Commerce, as well as Ms. Ivana Kolar, Director of the neighboring Terme Tuhej – Well Hotel and Resort & Wellness Centre.

**For more information please contact:**

**Frank Vismeg at: 416-576-5551 / [fvismeg@gmail.com](mailto:fvismeg@gmail.com) / [www.burlingtonconventioncentre.ca](http://www.burlingtonconventioncentre.ca) or Darlene Gustin, BSc ND at [darlenegustin@rogers.com](mailto:darlenegustin@rogers.com) or visit the Bronte Natural Health Clinic at 2368 Lakeshore Rd W Oakville ON L6L-1H5 / 905-825-8787.**



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Tom Ruzić  
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They came to Canada before 1914 to help build our country. When war broke out, they became “enemy aliens”, had their meagre possessions confiscated and were forced to do heavy labour in 24 camps established by the federal government from 1914-1920, simply because they were Croatian. While most survived the internment experience, these men died in the camps as prisoners of war - their families unaware of what happened to them. Their story has been unknown for 100 years - you can help us change this.

## Support the Canadian-Croatian Internment Project

The Croatian Canadian Internment Project (CCIP) will examine the injustices suffered by the pioneers of the Croatian community.

The  
Croatian Canadian  
Internment  
Project

**For further information or to contribute to this important project, please contact**

**Frank Jankač**, Project Leader

Email: [jankac@croatianinternment.com](mailto:jankac@croatianinternment.com)

Tel: 647-290-8337 (Mobile)

All donations towards the project are eligible for a tax receipt as permitted under CRA guidelines.



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Her Worship Bonnie Crombie  
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Mr. Bob Bratina  
Former Mayor of Hamilton and Federal Liberal Candidate,  
Hamilton East-Stoney Creek

Ms. Hazel McCallion  
Former Mayor of Mississauga

### Republic of Croatia

His Excellency Veselko Grubišić  
Ambassador, Embassy of The Republic of  
Croatia to Canada

Ms. Andrea Javor  
Consul General, Consulate General of the  
Republic of Croatia

Ms. Ivana Crnić  
Consul, Consulate General of the Republic of Croatia

Mr. Josip Cular  
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### OTHER

Mr. John Doma  
Honorary Consul General of the Republic of Slovenia

### Clergy

Rev. Ivica Reparinac  
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Da bi se odalo priznanje za ovu potporu, zid zahvale će biti izgrađen u predvorju našeg Centra na Green Mountain Road sa imenima svih darovatelja.

Svi koji bi se željeli uključiti u ovu akciju, pa da se i njihovo obiteljsko ime uvrsti u konačni popis na ovom zidu, još uvijek imaju vremena. Također, svi oni koji su u mogućnosti da povise postojeći dar, dobrodošli su da svojom velikodušnosti još više pridonese održavanju i izgradnji naše baštine.

Zainteresirane molimo da se obrate sljedećim osobama.

Mark Vuksan  
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On behalf of the Croatian Sports and Community Centre of Hamilton, we would like to express our sincere thanks to the over 325 donors for their contribution towards strengthening our Croatian community through the building of a new centre for all of us to enjoy.

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