

April 1, 2020

Re: Yom HaShoah 5780

When the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem made the decision to cancel the National Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony in Ottawa because of the current health situation in our country, the initial feelings were sadness and disappointment that this important event which brings together politicians, judges, ambassadors, students, the community and Holocaust Survivors would not be happening in 2020.

I am sure similar feelings were felt across the country as communal Yom HaShoah ceremonies suffered the same fate.

However, I don't think any phrase could apply more aptly to this situation:

"When life gives you lemons, make lemonade "

Out of these cancellations has come an online event uniting the Canadian Jewish Community and those supporting Holocaust Education and Remembrance from across the country.

On behalf of the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem, our Board of Directors, and our supporters we are thrilled to be part of this important event at this unique time in history. We hope that the content of this truly National Online Yom HaShoah Ceremony will help to fill the void in for those of you who traditionally participate locally in your communities and will offer a needed but important distraction to those of you who may not have attended a Yom HaShoah ceremony in the past.

We thank our partners from coast to coast and wish all Kol HaCovod for coming together at this important time for the benefit of our community.

Wishing you and your families a safe resolution to this pandemic and the ability to make lemonade out of the lemons we all are dealing with at this time.

Sincerely,



Fran Sonshine
National Chair
Canadian Society for Yad Vashem