



**Trung Tâm Người Việt Canada**  
**Vietnamese Canadian Centre**  
*Centre vietnamien du Canada*

**Suite 1 - 885 Somerset St. West, Ottawa, ON K1R 6R6, Canada**  
**Mailing address: P.O. Box 62042 Convent Glen, Ottawa, ON K1C 7H8 Canada**  
**Tel.: (613) 230-8282; Email: [ottawavietcancentre@gmail.com](mailto:ottawavietcancentre@gmail.com)**  
**Website : [vietnamesecanadiancentre.ca](http://vietnamesecanadiancentre.ca)**  
**Business No. 11928 5849 RR0001**

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Ottawa, December 30, 2019

His Worship Philippe Roy  
Mayor of Mount-Royal  
90 Roosevelt Avenue  
Town of Mount Royal  
Quebec H3R 1Z5

**Re Proposed Vietnamese Monument**

Dear Sir:

I am writing in support of the proposal by the Viet Heritage Renaissance to build a monument in Mount-Royal to commemorate the Vietnamese boat people who have lost their lives in their quest for freedom following the fall of South Vietnam to the Communist dictatorship regime in 1975.

It was estimated that about half a million of Vietnamese refugees lost their lives at sea or overland when they tried to flee the country. This represents 30% of the total number of people who escaped from South Vietnam at that time. They died in many ways, by starvation or drowning at sea, or being killed by pirates or the Khmer Rouges in Cambodia.

Similar monuments have been erected in other cities in Canada including Ottawa (1995), Vancouver (2018), and Toronto (2019). Other monuments were also built in the U.S., Germany, and Switzerland.

In the case of the monument in Ottawa, a picture of which and its inscriptions, are attached for your information, I was honoured to be its Project Leader. With the land being provided by the City of Ottawa, we built the monument featuring a statue entitled “Refugee mother and child” with the City’s technical support and with publicly raised fund. It has become one of Ottawa’s tourist attractions since it was inaugurated on April 30, 1995.

It would be very befitting if the proposal by Viet Heritage Renaissance is approved by the City of Mount-Royal next year, the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the exodus of Vietnamese refugees. The proposed monument would not only honour the hundreds of thousands of refugees who have lost their lives in their search for freedom but would also be an expression of gratitude of the Vietnamese community for the generosity and kindness of thousands of Canadians from all walks of life who have opened their arms to welcome thousands of Vietnamese refugees to rebuild their lives in peace and freedom in this country.

For these reasons, we wholeheartedly support this initiative and hope that it will receive approval by yourself and other members of Mount-Royal City Council.

On our part, we pledge to work closely with Viet Heritage Renaissance until this project is complete.

Yours respectfully,



Can D. Le, Ph. D.  
President, Vietnamese Canadian Centre  
Vietnamese Boat People Museum Project Leader

Attachments (2)

c.c. Dr. Huy D. DUONG, Viet Heritage Renaissance



Vietnamese Commemorative Monument, Ottawa

