

Right Honorable Prime Minister Justin Trudeau  
Office of the Prime Minister  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

September 17, 2018

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

I am writing to you on a matter that gravely impacts on all Canadians.

It has been reported in the Chinese language newspaper Xinhua of May 16 that Ms. Jenny Kwan (Vancouver East, NDP) is proposing a “Nanjing Massacre Commemorative Day”. I am opposed to such a day set up by the Parliament of Canada. The reasons for my opposition is as follows:

1. The so-called Nanjing Incident is supposed to have happened on December 13, 1937, during the Second Sino-Japanese War. The facts of the matter are still being disputed by history scholars of the world after more than 80 years. It has become a political dispute between Japan and China, but Canada, especially multicultural Canada, has no business taking sides on this foreign affair.
2. We, in Canada, are trying to promote good will and harmony among diverse ethnic groups. Why should Ms. Kwan bring into the Canadian Parliament a proposal which, if approved, would create discord among Canadians at large and distrust and hatred of a particular ethnic group? This shows an appalling lack of sensitivity to ethnic groups, and is an extremely un-Canadian act, especially by an elected MP, who is moreover an NDP Critic for Multiculturalism.
3. The Japanese Canadians experienced persecution in Canada already: over 20,000 Japanese Canadian citizens had their assets seized and were put into internment camps during the WW II simply because they were of the Japanese ancestry. We must not repeat these mistakes by bringing into Canada a seed of discord. A proposal, deliberately aimed at denigrating, discrediting and demonizing Japan and the Japanese Canadians should not be approved.
4. If this proposal is passed by the Parliament of Canada, it will tarnish Canada’s image in the world as an open, inclusive society where racism is discouraged and the dignity of every Canadian is respected.

Prime Minister, I appeal to you in the name of just society aspired to by your honored father Pierre Elliott Trudeau to quash this very negative bill. We all want Canada to be a diverse but inclusive society where different ethnic groups coexist in amity rather than enmity. I would appreciate your response to the important question.

Respectfully,