

Proclamation

30th Anniversary of the Genocide in Srebrenica, Bosnia, and Herzegovina

July 11th, 2025

Whereas, Canada reflects on the genocide of more than 8,000 Bosnian Muslim men and boys, as well as the forcible expulsion and displacement of over 20,000 women and children by Bosnian Serb forces in Srebrenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina, in July 1995. As we mark this somber occasion, we welcome the official recognition of this day as Srebrenica Genocide Remembrance Day in Canada.

Whereas, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and the International Court of Justice have ruled that the crimes committed in Srebrenica constitute an act of genocide. In 2024, the UN General Assembly designated July 11 as the International Day of Reflection and Commemoration of the 1995 Genocide in Srebrenica. This day is dedicated to honoring the victims and raising awareness about the genocide to prevent denial and distortion of historical facts.

Whereas, on July 11th, we honor the memory of the victims of the Srebrenica Genocide and acknowledging the profound emotional scars carried by survivors and their loved ones as they continue to heal from this tragic event. Despite these challenges, they exhibit extraordinary courage and resilience, which is deeply inspiring.

Whereas, in 2015, the House of Commons unanimously passed a historic motion to recognize April as Genocide Remembrance, Condemnation, and Prevention Month, acknowledging several genocides, including the Srebrenica Genocide. In 2010, the House of Commons unanimously passed motion M-416, which recognized the genocide in Srebrenica and established Srebrenica Genocide Remembrance Day in Canada.

Whereas, we mark this somber occasion, we welcome the official recognition of this day as the first International Day of Reflection and Commemoration of the 1995 Genocide in Srebrenica, following a resolution approved by the UN General Assembly on May 23, 2024. As a co-sponsor of the UN resolution, Canada remembers the victims of the Srebrenica Genocide and offers its condolences to all who lost family members or friends. We stand with the victims and survivors' families in their ongoing fight for truth and justice.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Mayor Andy Fillmore, on behalf of Halifax Regional Council, recognize July 11th, 2025 as the 30th anniversary of the genocide in Srebrenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and call on all residents to join survivors of the Srebrenica genocide in Canada in remembering and reflecting on this terrible tragedy and to condemn this act of violence in the strongest possible terms.

Dated at Halifax, Nova Scotia this 11th day of July, 2025

