

**Bill 79, Nanjing Massacre Commemorative Day Act, 2016**  
**Community Action Plan**

On December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016, Bill 79, *Nanjing Massacre Commemorative Day Act, 2016*, passed second reading debate in the Ontario Legislature. From there, communities across Ontario have mobilized to gather signatures for a petition in support of Bill 79. Even with a tremendous response of over 60,000 signatures and counting, petitions do not guarantee that a Private Member's Bill will pass in the Legislature. Thanks for promoting to your contact about Bill 79 and encouraging them to sign the Petition. At this time, if you support Bill 79, we hope you can take the following action in May 2017 (Asian Heritage month):

**1. Write to your local MPP**

Raise awareness on Bill 79 by meeting with your local MPP.

- The purpose of the meeting with your MPP is to raise awareness on Bill 79 and encourage them to raise the issue with their caucus
- Before scheduling an appointment, review the Fact Sheet\* to share key points
- A successful meeting with your MPP requires a thank you note so they remember the cause you brought forward
- Regular follow up with your MPP on the status of Bill 79 is a requirement with both a letter and meeting
- If you are unable to meet with your MPP, please consider sending the sample letter

You can find and contact your local MPP here:

[http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/members/member\\_addresses.do?locale=en](http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/members/member_addresses.do?locale=en)

**2. Contact the Premier and Opposition Leaders**

- Write to the Premier and Opposition Leaders to show your support for Bill 79 using the adaptable sample \*letter
- Each letter you send should have your MPP Cc'ed

Contact the Honourable Premier Kathleen Wynne, Leader of the Liberal Party:

[http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/members/members\\_detail.do?locale=en&ID=2111](http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/members/members_detail.do?locale=en&ID=2111)

Contact Patrick Brown, Leader of the Official Opposition, Progressive Conservatives:

[http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/members/members\\_detail.do?locale=en&ID=7324](http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/members/members_detail.do?locale=en&ID=7324)

Contact Andrea Horwath, Leader of the Recognized Third Party, New Democratic Party:

[http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/members/members\\_detail.do?locale=en&ID=2170](http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/members/members_detail.do?locale=en&ID=2170)

## Sample Letter for MPP in Support of Bill 79

Dear MPP \_\_\_\_\_,

I am writing to you today to ask for your support on Bill 79, *Nanjing Massacre Commemorative Day Act, 2016*. If passed, Bill 79 will recognize every December 13<sup>th</sup> as the Nanjing Massacre Commemorative Day. Since passing second reading debate on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016, communities across Ontario have mobilized over 60,000 signatures in support of Bill 79.

The Nanjing Massacre, colloquially known as the “Rape of Nanking”, was a six-week massacre initiated by Japanese imperial forces on December 13, 1937, in the then-capital of China, Nanjing (called “Nanking” at the time). More than 200,000 Chinese soldiers and civilians lost their lives during the massacre and tens of thousands of women in Nanjing were sexually assaulted during the capture of the city. Global human rights injustices have an impact in our diverse communities, with many Ontario residents having direct lineage to this atrocity. Bill 79 would promote education and raise awareness amongst Ontarians about the atrocities and tragedies that occurred in Asia during WWII.

Currently, Ontario already recognizes a number of international genocides and human rights atrocities, including Holocaust Memorial Day and Holodomor Memorial Day. The Armenian genocide has also been recognized by the Government of Canada and in the province of Ontario. This recognition has offered a day for reflection, reconciliation, and education for all Ontarians.

As you are a Member of Provincial Parliament, I encourage you to support Bill 79, *Nanjing Massacre Commemorative Day Act*, and in effect support a more inclusive Ontario.

Sincerely,

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cc: Honourable Premier Kathleen Wynne

Cc: Patrick Brown, Leader of the Official Opposition

Cc: Andrea Horwath, Leader of the Recognized Party

**Sample Letter to send to Premier of Ontario in Support of Bill 79**

Email to [premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca) and cc your MPP

Dear Honourable Premier Wynne,

I am writing to you today to ask for your support on Bill 79, *Nanjing Massacre Commemorative Day Act, 2016*. If passed, Bill 79 will recognize every December 13<sup>th</sup> as the Nanjing Massacre Commemorative Day. Since passing second reading debate on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016, communities across Ontario have mobilized over 60,000 signatures in support of Bill 79.

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As Premier of Ontario, you have proudly spoken about our inclusive province. A truly inclusive Ontario requires the Legislature to pass Bill 79. Ontarians expect their Premier to take a courageous stance on this global human rights injustice issue, and to work with diverse communities to pass appropriate and timely legislation. By taking a firm position, as was done by enacting the Holocaust Memorial Day and Holodomor Memorial Day, Ontarians will have confidence that their Premier champions issues that make Ontario more inclusive, culturally aware, and intolerant toward acts of injustice.

Sincerely,

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cc: MPP \_\_\_\_\_

**Sample Letter for Opposition Party Leader in Support of Bill 79**

Email to [patrick.brownco@pc.ola.org](mailto:patrick.brownco@pc.ola.org) and cc your MPP

Dear Patrick Brown , Official Opposition Leader,

I am writing to you today to ask for your support on Bill 79, *Nanjing Massacre Commemorative Day Act, 2016*. If passed, Bill 79 will recognize every December 13<sup>th</sup> as the Nanjing Massacre Commemorative Day. Since passing second reading debate on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016, communities across Ontario have mobilized over 60,000 signatures in support of Bill 79.

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Currently, Ontario already recognizes a number of international genocides and human rights atrocities, including Holocaust Memorial Day and Holodomor Memorial Day. The Armenian genocide has also been recognized by the Government of Canada and in the province of Ontario. This recognition has offered a day for reflection, reconciliation and education for all Ontarians.

As you are the Leader of Progressive Conservative Party, I encourage you to take this issue to your caucus and ask questions in Question Period about Bill 79. To truly be an inclusive Province, it is important that Ontario recognize this global human rights atrocity and have a formal day for commemoration and reconciliation. I am looking forward to working with you to ensure swift passage of Bill 79, *Nanjing Massacre Commemorative Day Act, 2016*.

Sincerely,

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cc: MPP \_\_\_\_\_

## Sample Letter for Leader, Recognized Party in Support of Bill 79

Email address: [ahorwath-qp@ndp.on.ca](mailto:ahorwath-qp@ndp.on.ca) and cc your own MPP

Dear Andrea Horwath, Leader of Recognized Party,

I am writing to you today to ask for your support on Bill 79, *Nanjing Massacre Commemorative Day Act, 2016*. If passed, Bill 79 will recognize every December 13<sup>th</sup> as the Nanjing Massacre Commemorative Day. Since passing second reading debate on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016, communities across Ontario have mobilized over 60,000 signatures in support of Bill 79.

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As you are the Leader of New Democratic Party, I encourage you to take this issue to your caucus and ask questions in Question Period about Bill 79. To truly be an inclusive Province, it is important that Ontario recognize this global human rights atrocity and have a formal day for commemoration and reconciliation. I am looking forward to working with you to ensure swift passage of Bill 79, *Nanjing Massacre Commemorative Day Act, 2016*.

Sincerely,

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cc: MPP \_\_\_\_\_

## Fact Sheet - Bill 79, the Nanjing Massacre Commemorative Day Act, 2016

### What is Bill 79?

- If passed, Bill 79, the Nanjing Massacre Commemorative Day Act, would declare December 13th of each year to be Nanjing Massacre Commemorative Day in Ontario.
- The Nanjing Massacre, or the Rape of Nanjing, was a six-week massacre initiated by Japanese imperial forces on December 13, 1937 in the then-capital of China, Nanjing. More than 200,000 Chinese soldiers and civilians lost their lives during the massacre and tens of thousands of women in Nanjing were sexually assaulted during the capture of the city.

### Why support Bill 79?

- Bill 79 focuses on a global humanity issue that is affecting Ontarians.
- As an inclusive society, Ontario acknowledges that global human rights injustices have an impact in our diverse communities.
- Bill 79 will promote re-dress and reconciliation amongst communities in Ontario impacted by the Nanjing massacre.
- Ontario already recognizes a number of international genocides and human rights atrocities, including Holocaust Memorial Day and Holodomor Memorial Day. The Armenian genocide has also been recognized by the Government of Canada and in the province of Ontario.
- Bill 79 would promote education and raise awareness amongst Ontarians about the atrocities and tragedies that occurred in Asia during WWII.

### What are some of the false arguments against Bill 79?

- **Myth:** Bill 79 will lead to tensions between Japanese-Canadian and Chinese-Canadian communities in Ontario. **Fact:** Bill 79 focuses on a day to remember and honour the victims of the Nanjing Massacre in China and many Japanese-Canadian organizations are supporting the bill.
- **Myth:** Reports on the Nanjing Massacre are false or exaggerated. **Fact:** The Nanjing Massacre has been recognized by UNESCO.