

SENATE



SÉNAT

The Honourable Mac Harb

CANADA

L'honorable Mac Harb

February 2, 2006

Dear Friends:

It is a privilege for me to provide this letter in support of the proposal to build a museum honouring the Vietnamese Boat People.

As a municipal and later federal politician representing an area which became home to many of Canada's Vietnamese refugees, I know firsthand not only the hardships they escaped but the richness they added to our community and to Canada as a whole.

Project 4000 was a huge success. The refugees who found safe haven in our city wasted no time establishing a strong and vibrant presence in their new found homeland. The list of their accomplishments is lengthy and far reaching. I fully support the creation of this memorial, both to celebrate the determination of these refugees as well as the generosity and far-sightedness of the Canadians who worked so hard to provide a warm welcome and a firm foundation upon which to build new lives.

The benefits of the Vietnamese Boat People Museum will go beyond commemoration however. It is apparent that this facility will serve educational and cultural purposes as well as being a significant addition to the Nation's Capital. Its location, planned to be in the vicinity of the LeBreton Flats area, will ensure ready access to local residents and national and international visitors alike.

We have the opportunity before us to ensure that an important element of our municipal and national history is preserved for future generations. We cannot afford to let this chance pass us by.

Sincerely,

Senator Mac Harb

