



BALTIC FEDERATION IN CANADA

ESTONIAN CENTRAL COUNCIL IN CANADA :: LATVIAN NATIONAL FEDERATION IN CANADA :: LITHUANIAN-CANADIAN COMMUNITY

BALTIC COMMUNITIES IN CANADA AGREE TO INTENSIFY COOPERATION

June 27, 2016

OTTAWA- Leaders of The Estonian Central Council in Canada, The Latvian National Federation in Canada and The Lithuanian-Canadian Community met at the Latvian Center in Toronto in June to discuss future joint Baltic issues, events and accelerated cooperation between the three Baltic Communities.

As the geopolitical situation continues to evolve in the Baltic Sea region, the Baltic Federation is committed to working together to support Baltic democracy and freedom and to work with the Government of Canada to help maintain stability and security in the region.

*“Co-operation and unity among our communities has never been stronger” said **Latvian National Federation in Canada and Baltic Federation President Andris Kesteris**. “We remain vigilant in promoting and protecting our common values and roles in Canadian society, whether social, cultural or economic, and are proud to be associated with other multicultural organizations such as the Central and Eastern European Council.”*

In addition to discussing important geopolitical topics affecting the Baltic States and their communities in Canada, the community leaders committed to exploring a joint celebration of the Baltic States’ 100 year anniversary of independence in summer 2018.

Piret Noorhani, the director of the Museum of Estonians Abroad in Toronto participated in recent meetings and contributed ideas towards combined celebrations, with Estonian, Lithuanian and Latvian community organizers.

*“A joint celebration of the 100th anniversary of Baltic Independence would be a tremendous way to promote our history and culture in Canada and would help foster deeper partnerships between our communities,” explained **Lithuanian-Canadian Community President, Joana Kuras**.*

The Baltic Federation agreed that ongoing communications with all major political parties in Canada is essential to helping secure the Baltic region.

*“We’ve had very productive, ongoing meetings with members of the government and opposition about our concerns in the foreign policy context,” said **Estonian Central Council President, Marcus Kolga**, “and I think that it’s broadly understood that security and stability of Canada’s NATO partners in the Baltic Sea region is an urgent priority.”*

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