

Planners join chorus opposing location

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OTTAWA CITIZEN

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The national voice of Canada's planning profession has joined those calling on the federal government to reconsider the site for the planned Memorial to the Victims of Communism.

In a statement, the 7,800-member Canadian Institute of Planners says the memorial's proposed location on the "Capital Plateau" along Confederation Boulevard adjacent to the Supreme Court of Canada should be reserved for a new judicial building, such as the Federal Court of Canada.

Such a building "would complete a triad of buildings of national significance," the institute's statement says. "This would be in keeping with every plan that has been prepared by the National Capital Commission on behalf of all Canadians," it adds, including the 1950 plan created by French urban planner Jacques Gréber.

The institute urges the federal government to work with the NCC and municipal governments "to identify a more appropriate location" for the memorial elsewhere in the National Capital Region.

**NOT THE ONLY
OPPONENT**

Here's a sampling of what other opponents have said:

Royal Architectural Institute of Canada

"We believe this land should be reserved for a building whose purpose, quality and dignity are commensurate with its context."

Ontario Association of Architects

Using the property for a memorial would "undo the effects of the long-term vision and plan and destroy the opportunity for a significant work of public architectural built form anticipated for this site."

Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson

The memorial "takes away from the beauty of the Supreme Court building, and I think it is a blight on that particular site."

Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin

Some of the proposed memorial designs "could send the wrong message within the judicial precinct, unintentionally conveying a sense of bleakness and brutality that is inconsistent with a space dedicated to the administration of justice."

Ottawa Centre MP Paul Dewar

"In terms of the narrative of our history, is this what we want to have given prominence? I don't think it's appropriate to have it there."

Architect and memorial jury member Shirley Blumberg

"It is so centrally placed that it would seem to quite overshadow Canada's true history. I think it completely misrepresents and skews what Canada is all about."

Architect Barry Padolsky

"Our national 'acropolis' deserves to be completed and embellished as proposed in our shared, homegrown vision."

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