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The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Canada celebrates March as Hellenic Heritage Month



March: Hellenic Heritage Month ***Let us all celebrate it***

The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Canada recognizes and joyously celebrates Hellenic Heritage Month.

In December 2019, the Legislative Assembly of Ontario passed legislation that included a schedule proclaiming the month of March in each year as Hellenic Heritage Month in the Province of Ontario.

This important recognition for Canadians of Hellenic descent was spearheaded by the tireless leadership of MPP Effie Triantafilopoulos, with the executive support of the Hon. Premier, Doug Ford, together with the Hon. Rod Phillips.

The month of March, with the celebration of the Annunciation of the Theotokos, is

always a special time of the year for Greeks and Orthodox Christians alike. The commemoration of Hellenic Heritage Month is of particular significance this year, however, as Greeks in Canada and around the world remember, honour, and rejoice in the 200-year celebration of Greek Independence.

The spiritual, military, and lay leadership of 1821 propelled a nation to fight fearlessly with bravery and valor for their God-given freedoms. These heroes sacrificed everything, including in many cases their own lives, to unshackle themselves and future generations of people from slavery. The Ecumenical Patriarch himself, the Holy Hieromartyr Gregory V, was hung on Easter Sunday on the steps of the Patriarchate in Constantinople. The Greek war of independence prompted others to fight for their independence and the free will to determine their own history.

The Archdiocese thanks the Premier, Mr. Phillips, Ms. Triantafilopoulos, MPP Christina Mitas and all members of the Legislative Assembly who supported the adoption of Hellenic Heritage Month. As we continue to battle and work to overcome the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, let us unite around the values and principles of our illustrious Greek forefathers and foremothers: freedom, love, sacrifice, and faith in God.

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— gometropolis.org

