

What are some of the false arguments against establishing Nanjing Massacre Commemorative Day?

- **Myth:** Nanjing Massacre Commemorative Day will lead to tensions between Japanese-Canadian and Chinese-Canadian communities in Canada.

Fact: Nanjing Massacre Commemorative Day focuses on a day to remember and honour the victims of the atrocities and related tragedies during WWII in Asia. Many Japanese-Canadians are supporting the bill, as recognition of the past wrong would bring closure and reconciliation between the different ethnic groups.

- **Myth:** Establishing Nanjing Massacre Commemorative Day will lead to sanctions against Canada by the Japanese government.

Fact: In the past, similar threats were made by Turkish government against the federal government when it recognized the Armenian Genocide. Diplomatic relationship should base on mutual respect and economic relationship, on mutual benefit.

- **Myth:** Reports on the Nanjing Massacre are false or exaggerated.

Fact: Documentations of Nanjing Massacre” was accepted in UNESCO Memory of the World program in 2016. A death toll of over 260,000 was estimated at the Tokyo War Trials held between 1946 and 1948.

- **Myth:** since neither Canada nor Canadians were involved in the massacre, it does not make sense to create a commemorative day in this country.

Fact: Canada was an active participant in World War II in both the European and Asian theatres. The Japanese military’s killed or abused a total of 1,975 Canadian soldiers in the Battle of Hong Kong. No one dares to say it did not matter because it happened outside of Canada. Everything that happened during WWII matters to all Canadians.

We Canadians do memorialize important historical events that happened outside of Canada. Canada has officially recognized five genocides that happened outside the country: the Armenian Genocide (1915), the Holodomor in Soviet Ukraine (1932-33), the Holocaust (1933-45), the Rwandan Genocide (1994) and the Srebrenica Massacre (1995).