

Estonian Central Council in Canada to LNAK on April 11th AGM

Dear Latvian friends and guests,

It is my honour to send greetings on behalf of the Estonian Central Council in Canada and the Estonian Canadian community, from Tallinn, Estonia.

Today, on April 11th, as LNAK meets in Toronto, the Estonian World Congress is in the second day of its AGM following 2 successive days of meetings with Estonian government leaders on defense and national security issues.

We are living in increasingly perilous times. On March 30th, my first night back in Tallinn, alerts were issued between 1 and 6 a.m. across most of the country as Russian interference with navigation caused 10 Ukrainian drones to stray into Estonian territory, including just a few kilometres from the capital. Latvia has witnessed similar incidents during Ukrainian attacks on Russia's Baltic Sea ports, as it tries to weaken Russia's oil exports which finance the war of aggression against the Ukrainian people.

With a steep rise in oil prices, clearly Russia has been the biggest benefactor of Donald Trump's war in Iran.

The US under Donald Trump can no longer be viewed as a reliable ally. Trump's threats of pulling the US out of NATO have become more frequent and are echoed by Marco Rubio.

As Prime Minister Mark Carney eloquently stated in his speech in Davos, we are living in a time where there is a „rupture in the world order“, where large powers are „submitted to no limits, no constraints“.

Latvians and Estonians know all too well from history where this can lead and the consequences for small nations bordering large aggressors.

In recognition of the urgent need for small and medium nations, as well as communities to work together, LNAK and the Estonian Central Council in Canada have embarked upon several initiatives over the past year. These include support of Ukrainian soldiers wounded at the front and cooperation relating to strategic crisis communication and diaspora support for Latvia and Estonia in the event of Russian invasion. As we proceed, we are looking to include the Lithuanian Canadian community. We are much stronger when we work together with our Baltic friends and others who share our values.

Estonian Central Council in Canada wishes you a productive day of meetings and congratulates LNAK on the election of its new board!

We look forward to meeting with you for future collaboration on issues of shared importance.

Lai dzīvo Latvija!

Reet Marten Sehr

Estonian Central Council in Canada, Chair of the Board