

David Halton to Deliver Keynote Address, “The Holocaust And The Press: A Tragic Failure,” At Kristallnacht Commemoration

VANCOUVER BC — David Halton, former Senior Foreign Correspondent for CBC Television and recipient of the Gordon Sinclair Award for Broadcast Journalism in 2005, will deliver the keynote address at this year’s Kristallnacht commemoration. Halton argues that the press in the 1930’s was partly to blame for the appeasement policies that led to the Holocaust. His father, Matthew Halton, correspondent for CBC and the Toronto Star before and during the Second World War, wrote extensive reports warning about the growing threat of Hitler’s Nazi Party.

The Kristallnacht Commemoration will take place at Temple Sholom Synagogue, 7190 Oak Street, Vancouver on Sunday, November 4, 2012 at 7 PM. Local survivors of the Holocaust will participate in a candle lighting ceremony in memory of those who perished. Admission to the event is free of charge and is open to the public.

The City of Vancouver will recognize the date of November 9th as Kristallnacht Commemoration Day. The City’s declaration commemorates the violent 1938 incident that is widely viewed as the beginning of the Holocaust.

This Commemoration is presented by the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre in partnership with Congregation Beth Israel and with the support of the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver.

ABOUT THE VANCOUVER HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE

The VHEC is the only independent museum and education space in Vancouver dedicated to promoting human rights, social justice and genocide awareness, and to teaching about the causes and consequences of discrimination, racism and antisemitism through education and remembrance of the Holocaust. The VHEC reaches over 15,000 students annually. It produces acclaimed exhibits, innovative school programs, teaching materials and online exhibits, many of them with a focus on Canada and the Holocaust.

Now marking its 18th year, the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre was founded by survivors of the Holocaust, whose dream it was to leave a legacy in the form of an anti-racism teaching museum to the citizens of British Columbia.

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David Halton retired recently as CBC News' Senior Correspondent in Washington, D.C. One of Canada's most acclaimed journalists Halton has been with CBC Television for four decades. He joined CBC News in 1965. A year later, he became The National's Paris-based correspondent, reporting on the de Gaulle government, the Six-Day War in Israel and a coup in Greece. He was CBC's Moscow correspondent between 1967 and 1968 and, after returning to Paris in 1968, covered events in the Middle East and the war in Vietnam.

In 1971, Halton became The National's reporter in Quebec and, three years later, returned to Europe as CBC's London correspondent. While based in London, Halton also reported from the Middle East and interviewed such leaders as Harold Wilson, Menachem Begin,

Anwar Sadat, King Hussein and Robert Mugabe.

He returned to Canada to host several CBC news specials, such as The October Crisis, before accepting the position of Chief Political Correspondent in Ottawa in 1978. He co-anchored CBC's coverage of every federal election from 1979 to 1988. Halton became the CBC's Senior Washington Correspondent in 1991 covering four presidential elections and such major stories as the Clinton impeachment proceedings and the 9/11 attacks. He also filed documentary reports from Haiti, Cuba, Colombia and Bolivia.

Born in Beaconsfield, England, Halton was brought to Canada when he was two weeks old. His father, Matthew Halton, was a well-known CBC wartime and postwar correspondent. David Halton graduated from the University of Toronto with a BA in modern history and also studied at the Institute of Political Studies in Paris.

In 2005, Halton was presented with one of the most prized Gemini awards, the Gordon Sinclair Award for Broadcast Journalism. The award cited his "well-deserved reputation for integrity and responsibility in reporting that brings credit not only on him but also to the entire Canadian television industry."