



WORLD LEBANESE CULTURAL UNION - BC COUNCIL

Vancouver, March 18th 2008

Chairperson of the Postage Advisory Committee
Canada Post Corporation
2701 Riverside Drive, Suite N1070
Ottawa, ON K1A 0B1

Dear Sir/Madam:

The World Lebanese Cultural Union – BC Council, is a member of the World Lebanese Cultural Union (WLCU), a non-political, non-sectarian INGO spanning 358 chapters worldwide, where the Lebanese Diaspora is present, is bringing forward a special request to commemorate the first Lebanese immigration to Canada and to celebrate the participation of the Lebanese community throughout the years; the Lebanese community have contributed to the prosperity and unity of Canada since 1882.¹

This commemoration is very important to the Canadians of Lebanese descent. It will be a milestone and the first time the Canadian government officials will clearly highlight the importance of our immigration.

The Lebanese identity and traditions are unique due to the plurality of their characteristics and multicultural heritage. Therefore, it is an opportunity to draw the attention to those Lebanese from different backgrounds whose ancestors came to Canada to build a new future and a better life. The World Lebanese Cultural Union – BC Council, who is the sole representative of the Lebanese Diaspora, have the pleasure of proposing a recommendation addressed to yourself, as the Chairperson of the Advisory Committee, to contribute to the commemoration of our community by creating a special postage stamp representing the arrival of the first Lebanese immigrant to the port of Montreal in 1882 in his traditional outfit. This commemorative postage stamp would be a precious symbol that represents the presence of the Lebanese community who since their first day in Canada have promoted the Lebanese and the Canadian values based on respect, understanding, and equity.

¹ Some references date the first Lebanese immigration to Canada back to 1876.

Chairperson of the Postage Advisory Committee
Page 2
March 18, 2008

We are confident that you would accept our proposal to create a new postage stamp that will enable the Lebanese community as well as all other communities in Canada to understand the added values the Lebanese immigrants brought with them to Canada.

Brief Description of the suggested postage stamp

The first postage stamp represents the face of the first Lebanese immigrant coming to Montreal and looking forward to discovering his new country.

The second one shows the entire body of the Lebanese immigrant, with his traditional outfit and his suit cases at the port of Montreal. The background behind him displays the ships which brought him along with other new immigrants to Montreal. The scene of the old market of Montreal is in front of him. This was the first and unforgettable scene the immigrant encountered in Canada which represented hope and bright future that he was going to build in this new land of opportunities.

We are confident that you would value and consider our request. We appreciate any suggestions and we are ready to modify the pictures to any specifications that is needed in order for this project to see the light.

Yours truly,

WORLD LEBANESE CULTURAL UNION - BC COUNCIL

John Badr

Dr Nick Kahwaji

President
WLCU, BC Council

Deputy Secretary General
WLCU, Vancouver (BC)

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PS: Two pictures of the suggested postage stamps are attached for your review and are subject to any modifications following your feedback and/ or comments.