**Petition: Against Ontario Bill 79, Nanjing Massacre Commemorative Day**

To The Legislative Assembly of Ontario

WHEREAS:

* Bill 79 raises a sensitive and unresolved historical issue between two foreign governments having nothing to do with domestic issues within the Province of Ontario.
* Commemorating something that took place on foreign soil 80 years ago could have unfortunate international implications, negatively affecting the important cultural, economic, and diplomatic relationship between Japan and Ontario.
* Bill 79 promotes intolerance, rather than an appreciation of the rich diversity that Ontarians enjoy.
* Bill 79 is counterproductive to the long history of successive Ontario governments promoting and reinforcing the dynamic, inclusive, multi-cultural society that we all learn and benefit from.
* Japanese Canadians know what it is like to be persecuted in Canada: over 18,000 Canadian citizens of Japanese descent were interned and had their assets seized during the Second World War simply on account of their ancestral and racial heritage. The Province of Ontario should be celebrating differences and fostering a pluralistic society, not institutionalizing a foreign commemoration that will have the direct effect of making the Japanese Canadian community a target of derision in the province.
* Japanese companies are long-standing, valuable contributors to the province’s economy, creating and sustaining thousands of well-paying jobs, directly and indirectly.
* It does not appear to be in the province’s best interest to act in a manner that runs counter to the positive relationships being fostered between Ontario and Japan.

We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to support an inclusive, richly diverse, welcoming Province of Ontario by voting against Bill 79.

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| Name (printed) | Address (printed) | Signature |
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[Petition must contain original signatures only, written directly on the face of the petition. Each person must print and sign their name and include their address.]