



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**Office of Congressman Tom Lantos  
2172 Rayburn Building  
Capitol Hill  
Washington, D.C.  
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.  
May 20, 2003**

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

For more information please contact:  
Mr. Jeffrey Morry  
The Asper Foundation  
Tel. 204-989-5539  
E-mail: [jmorry@aspergroup.com](mailto:jmorry@aspergroup.com)

### **Congressman Tom Lantos to Meet with 250 Asper Foundation Holocaust and Human Rights Studies Program Participants From Canada on Capitol Hill**

**WINNIPEG, MB. – May 14, 2003** - Dr. Israel Asper, President of The Asper Foundation, is pleased to announce that once again, a highlight of this year's Asper Foundation Holocaust and Human Rights Studies Program will take place on May 20, 2003, 10:00 a.m., when 250 students and their chaperones from across Canada will meet at the offices of Congressman Tom Lantos on Capitol Hill. Congressman Lantos is the only Holocaust survivor ever elected to Congress. Also, on May 20, 8:30 a.m., this group will attend an address on human rights to be delivered at the Canadian Embassy. Mr. Moe Levy, Executive Director of The Asper Foundation will bring personal greetings from the foundation at these meetings.

As part of this Program, the students participate in a comprehensive three-part learning experience which includes 18 hours of classroom instruction on the Holocaust and human rights, a four day trip to Washington, D.C. and participation by each student in 16 hours of volunteer work in their respective communities. The 18-hour curriculum developed specifically by and for The Asper Foundation involves such topics as Modern Canadian History and Human Rights, The Setting of the Holocaust, The Holocaust in Operation, Literature of the Holocaust and as well, Leadership Values and Human Rights. Students are also taught about leadership qualities and how they can make a difference. The trip to Washington, D.C. involves visits and lectures at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, visits to the Washington monuments, the Smithsonian and other historical site visits that focus on American history and human rights.

In the past six years, almost 1,500 students from all religious backgrounds from over 30 communities spanning Canada from Vancouver to Halifax have participated in this initiative. This year, The Asper Foundation, which pays for the majority of the costs of this Program, is sending almost 400 participants from 13 cities in eight provinces made up of primarily high school students from diverse religious and ethnic backgrounds to Washington, D.C. The trip is split into two groups travelling in May. This is the third year that communities from coast to coast will be participating in this Program which at its inception had been delivered only in Winnipeg.

Dr. Israel Asper, commenting on the impact of this Program, stated that "The meeting with Congressman Tom Lantos will make a positive difference in the lives of these students. As a survivor, the personal story of Congressman Lantos will help enable these students to understand the enormity of the Holocaust." Dr. Asper added that "I believe this will be one of the most significant educational experiences these students will have as young adults and trust that they will convey the message of tolerance and the need to preserve human rights for all peoples. To this end, I require each student to sign a Memorandum for Personal Responsibility with The Asper Foundation promising to uphold the principles and values of human rights."

In April 2003, The Asper Foundation in joint partnership with the Government of Canada, Province of Manitoba, City of Winnipeg and The Forks North Portage Partnership announced the establishment of The Canadian Museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. The Asper Foundation's vision is to create a distinctive, architecturally exceptional museum that will help to eliminate intolerance through recognition of human rights as the foundation for human equality, dignity, and freedom worldwide. The museum has made groundbreaking history as it will be the largest and perhaps only human rights museum in the world. As well, it will incorporate the largest Holocaust gallery in Canada. The Asper Foundation Holocaust and Human Rights Studies Program will be expanded in the coming years through the museum's planned national student program which will sponsor 100,000 high school students and their chaperones from across Canada to visit the museum each year.

For coverage of the meeting at the Office of Congressman Tom Lantos, media are asked to contact Mr. Matt Gobush, Press Secretary for Congressman Lantos at 202-225-6735 or by e-mail at [matt.gobush@mail.house.gov](mailto:matt.gobush@mail.house.gov)