

## Tribute to Mr. Philip Weiss

The Asper Foundation offers its heartfelt condolences to the family of Mr. Philip Weiss on his untimely passing on September 3, 2008. Mr. Weiss was a man of true passion and integrity. The Asper Foundation is forever indebted to him for his meetings in the past several years with hundreds of Canadian students participating in The Asper Foundation Human Rights and Holocaust Studies Program.

The words of Mr. Weiss to program students have had a profound impact on their lives. As a survivor of the Holocaust, he made it a personal mission to educate others, particularly young people, on the importance of protecting freedom, democracy and human rights and honouring the memories of Holocaust victims and victims of all genocides.

[Please click here for an interview of Mr. Weiss as part of the 2006 Asper Foundation Human Rights and Holocaust Studies Program in Washington, D.C.](#)

[Please click here to read the obituary of Philip Weiss.](#)

*"I have full confidence and trust in our young generation of Canadians. They understand freedom and will make sure that it is here to stay. The chimneys of the crematoria are cold by now. The putrid smell of freshly burned human flesh is not offending the nostrils of the tourists seeking consolation. The ocean of blood of the tortured was sponged by the ever thirsty earth. The vendors are hawking the books, memorabilia and Cokes. It all looks so innocent and peaceful. And yet if you listen carefully, if you attune yourself to the uncanny stillness of the earth, you will hear the faint whisper of a child in many strange languages which all translates into one lamenting plea. Please don't forget us. Please tell the world about us. And that is what we survivors are under oath to fulfill. And that's what you are being asked today to help us achieve. We won't be here for much longer. You can't and you mustn't be silent observers any longer.*

*I would like to end now with a statement which only a survivor of the Holocaust can fully comprehend and all of you I hope will cultivate in the future...I know how difficult, how dangerous and how piteous it is to be a human being. And I also know how grand, how glorious it is to be a human being. And this is the torch of justice and freedom that you young Canadians shall carry with dignity and pride for generations to come."*

Excerpt from 2006 address by Philip Weiss to students of The Asper Foundation Human Rights and Holocaust Studies Program at the Embassy of Canada in Washington, D.C.  
[\(please click here to view complete address\)](#)

[Please click here to read May 24, 2006 article in the \*Edmonton Journal\*](#)

[Please click here to read May 18, 2005 article in the \*National Post\*](#)