



“You Our Enemy!”

**Croats and Canada’s
First National Internment Operations
1914-1920**

Lecture and Slide Presentation

Time: 1:00 PM

Sunday, February 23, 2014

Croatian Cultural Centre

3250 Commercial Drive in Vancouver, BC

Even though there was never any evidence of disloyalty on their part, hundreds of Croats along with other Europeans were imprisoned needlessly, forced to do heavy labour and even died in 24 internment camps throughout the country during Canada’s first national internment operations from 1914-1920. Tens of thousands were designated as “enemy aliens” were obliged to carry identity documents and report regularly to the police. Many were subjected to other state-sanctioned indignities, including disenfranchisement, restriction on their freedom of speech, movement and association, deportation and the confiscation of whatever little wealth they had, some of which was never returned. This happened even though the British Foreign Office informed Ottawa that these Eastern Europeans were “friendly aliens” who should be given “preferential treatment.” These men, women and children suffered not because of anything they had done but only because of who they were and where they had come from.



**Learn about the injustice
experienced by the pioneer
generation of Croats in Canada**

The
Croatian Canadian
Internment
Project