



**Political leaders rally behind newest film from Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center**  
*“Against the Tide” premieres in Ottawa with endorsement of close to 50 Parliamentarians*



Left to right: Minister Stockwell Day & Avi Benlolo (FSWC President & CEO); Avi Benlolo (FSWC President & CEO), Marc Garneau M.P., The Hon. Hedy Fry M.P., Robert Oliphant M.P.

**March 24, 2009, OTTAWA** – Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center demonstrated last night in Ottawa the power of film in touching human hearts and educating people. An intimate audience including community leaders, donors and politicians gathered at the National Library and Archives of Canada to watch the premiere of *Against the Tide*, the latest movie produced by Moriah Films, the Academy Award-winning film division of the Center. The movie documents what happened in the United States during the Holocaust, highlighting how a young activist, Peter Bergson, challenged Washington and the Jewish establishment to demand change, action and compassion toward the Jews of Europe.

The film was made possible thanks to the generosity of donors and supporters across North America. Canadians, through Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center, are among the film’s top sponsors.

“Moriah Films is one of many educational programs funded and directed, here in Canada, by Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center,” said Avi Benlolo, president and CEO of Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center. “Movies continue to play an important role in the education of our children and continue to spread Simon Wiesenthal’s legacy for generations to come. I am hopeful that people who see this film will be inspired to join our cause and support the work of our members around the world.”

The premiere received an unparalleled level of support from the Federal Government, having been endorsed by close to 50 politicians including the following Members of Parliament who also attended: the Minister of International Trade, the Honourable Stockwell Day, the Honourable Dr. Hedy Fry, the Honourable Ken Dryden, the Honourable Steven Fletcher, Bill Siksay, Marc Garneau, Judy Wasylycia-Leis and Robert Oliphant.

Please see below for a complete list of political leaders who endorsed the screening.

“The projects supported by Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center are new and innovative,” said the Honourable Peter Kent, elected Member of Parliament for the riding of Thornhill and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs (Americas). “Evenings such as this bring together a diverse group of people interested and motivated to learn from the lessons of history and encouraged to move forward with a renewed sense of purpose in promoting a better world.”

Thanks to the support of donors, volunteers and staff, Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center has already screened Moriah Films to more than 10,000 high school students throughout Canada, helping them learn about hate and intolerance. This latest documentary will be available to the public shortly. Visit [www.fswc.ca](http://www.fswc.ca) for more information.

*Political Endorsements for Screening of Against the Tide:* Senator Tommy Banks, Hon. Carolyn Bennett, Ms. Lois Brown, Senator Larry Campbell, Dr. Colin Carrie, Ms. Olivia Chow, Senator Joan Cook, Hon. Irwin Cotler, Hon. Stockwell Day, Mr. bob Dechert, Mr. Paul Dewar, Senator Percy Downe, Hon. Ken Dryden, Senator Art Eggleton, Hon. Steven Fletcher, Mme. Raymonde Folco, Senator Francis Fox, Hon. Hedy Fry, Mr. Marc Garneau, Senator Yoine Goldstein, Counc. Jan Harder, Mr. Randy Hoback, Ms. Candice Hoepfner, Mr. Michael Ignatieff, Senator Mobina Jaffer, Hon. Marlene Jennings, Senator Janis Johnson, Mr. Peter Julian, Mr. Andrew Kania, Hon. Peter Kent, Mr. Brian Masse, Ms. Alexandra Mendes, Mr. Brian Murphy, Mr. Robert Oliphant, Mr. Glen Pearson, Senator Lucie Pepin, Senator Vivienne Poy, Hon. Bob Rae, Mr. Brent Rathgeber, Mr. Bev Shipley, Mr. Bill Siksay, Mr Mario Silva, Mr. Peter Stoffer, Mr. Judy Wasylycia-Leis

**About Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies**

Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies is a Canadian human rights organization dedicated to fostering tolerance and understanding through community involvement, educational outreach and social action. Visit: [www.fswc.ca](http://www.fswc.ca) for more information.

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**DIRECT ACTION**

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**SPIRIT OF HOPE BENEFIT: MAY 31, 2009**