



Julie Dzerowicz
Member of Parliament / Députée
Davenport



Tuesday, September 26, 2023

An Open Statement on Events in the House on September 22

Davenport friends and neighbours,

I am writing regarding President Zelenskyy's historic visit to the House of Commons on Friday, September 22, 2023.

There were powerful and moving speeches by our Prime Minister, by President Zelenskyy, and the Speakers of each of the House of Commons and the Senate.

The Prime Minister announced an additional \$650 million in aid to Ukraine over three years, including funding for mental health care, the financing of 50 additional armoured vehicles, and F-16 fighter aircraft training for Ukrainians to maximize their air power. The Prime Minister also announced additional sanctions against Russia.

Our support for Ukraine has grown to more than \$9.5 billion and we are the most generous contributor per capita of any nation in the world.

We stand firmly in our support for Ukraine against Russia, we support international rules-based order, and we support a nation that is sacrificing lives every day so that they can determine their own fate and their form of government. They are fighting for their democracy, and they are fighting for ours.

After the speeches were over, Speaker Anthony Rota introduced a "special guest" in the gallery, a constituent from his Nipissing-Timiskaming riding. This "special guest"—it was later discovered—turned out to be a Ukrainian-Canadian veteran who fought in a Nazi unit during WWII.

New information came to light over the weekend that the "special guest" was a member of a Nazi Waffen-SS unit during the war. **Speaker Anthony Rota has repeatedly taken full and complete responsibility for the invitation and has verified numerous times that no other person knew about the invitation and that it was his responsibility alone to have invited him.**

As a Member of Parliament, I feel deep sadness and shame that a Nazi sympathiser was recognized in our gallery in the presence of President Zelenskyy, our Prime Minister, and in our venerable Parliament.

The Conservatives are choosing to politicize this event, which is unacceptable.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

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The Speaker of the House is elected by all Members of Parliament and is considered independent when sitting in the Speaker's chair. The government had NO knowledge of the invitation to the special guest and the Prime Minister did not meet him.

In this day and age when it is hard to get the facts, I wanted to issue a statement stating the facts, and I invite Davenport residents to contact me should you have any questions.

It is also important to know that earlier today, Tuesday September 26, Anthony Rota has announced that he has resigned as the Speaker of the House of Commons effective Wednesday September 27 end of day.

My best regards,

Julie Dzerowicz

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