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PRESS RELEASE

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Colloquium on “After-effects of the Armenian Genocide” Held at York University

Toronto, Canada—A colloquium on “After-effects of the Armenian Genocide” was held at York University in Toronto on, April 23, 2009. Three scholars addressed the impact of the Genocide on Armenian immigration, on literature, and on international politics.

Dr. Isabel Kaprielian-Churchill, Armenian and Immigration History Professor Emerita, California State University, Fresno, spoke on “The Armenian Genocide and Armenian Immigration to Canada.”



Professor Kaprielian examined the policy, regulations, and implementation of the Canadian immigration program with respect to the entry of Armenian refugees to Canada. She provided details of how the policy and regulations were designed to favour immigrants from western and northern Europe and discriminate against those from elsewhere. Whenever the Armenians had a counter-argument for their discrimination, they were blocked because of another regulation. Consequently, the number of Armenians entering Canada between 1920 and 1930 was only 1250.

Dr. Lorne Shirinian, a writer and Professor of Comparative Literature at the Royal Military College of Canada, spoke on “The Effects of the Genocide on Modern Armenian Literature.”

Dr. Simon Payaslian, the Charles K. and Elisabeth M. Kenosian Professor in Modern Armenian History and Literature at Boston University, explored “The Politics of Genocide Recognition in the United States.”

The colloquium was co-sponsored by the Armenian Students’ Association @ York University, the York Centre for Human Rights, the Zoryan Institute of Canada, Inc., and the Armen Karo Student Association, with the support of the Armenian Students’ Associations of McMaster University, Ryerson University, the University of Toronto, the University of Toronto-Scarborough Campus, and the University of Waterloo.

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