



**Centre universitaire de santé McGill
McGill University Health Centre**

*Les meilleurs soins pour la vie
The Best Care for Life*



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It gives me great pleasure to be part of the efforts to raise funds for the “Hellenic Canadian Federation of Laconian Associations of Montreal”. These funds will be used to help Laconians in Greece through these troubling times.

I must make a special mention of the late president Peter Georgakakos. He began this effort, which has already raised a significant amount of aid. I had the opportunity to talk to Peter before his passing and despite his health problems; he was extremely passionate about this cause. He would be very proud of the people who have continued the work on this important project. Also, we are grateful for the support of Metropolitan Archbishop Sotirios.

The Greeks have weathered many difficult times in their modern history. During the last three centuries, beginning with the struggle for independence and the establishment of the first Hellenic Republic, the Balkan Wars, World War I and II, the Civil War, the Military Dictatorship and the present day third Hellenic Republic, all these significant hurdles had to be negotiated so that the Greek people could survive and keep their culture alive.

Despite their small number the Greeks are a resilient people and, as they have overcome the problems of the past, they will overcome the problems of the present. To weather these troubles, it will take time, change, effort and help from the Greek diaspora. Most people calculate that there are between 6-8 million people of Greek origin living outside of Greece. The Greek diaspora can only maintain its cultural roots if there is a strong Greece, therefore, it is important that each one of us outside of Greece do what we can to help Greece through these hard times.

I applaud the efforts of the “Laconian Associations of Montreal” and their organizing committee members for their continuing efforts to help our brothers and sisters across the Atlantic.

Sincerely

Peter Metrakos