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## Students Make a Difference for Prime Minister Harper

Petition

3/5/2007

Winnipeg - On Monday, March 5th at 9:30 a.m. Joy Smith, MP (Kildonan/St. Paul) showed the high school students of Gray Academy of Jewish Education how they made a difference for PM Stephen Harper. The special assembly took place in the Berney Theatre of the Asper Jewish Community Campus, 123 Doncaster Street.

Gray Academy, in conjunction with the community relations department of the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg organized a special human rights awareness day on January 17th – Raoul Wallenberg Day. At the time, they brought in speakers to discuss human rights abuses in sub-Saharan Africa and various other contraventions of human rights. Part of the day involved student-led workshops to develop action plans. As a result, a number of petitions were written to the Prime Minister.

Federation's CR Director Shelley Faintuch commented, "I took the petitions, as they were, with paraphernalia from the "Bring Them Home" campaign (a campaign to get the three kidnapped Israeli soldiers released) to Ottawa where I presented them to Joy Smith, MP on behalf of the students."

Smith was so moved and impressed by these initiatives that she immediately made arrangements to see the Prime Minister to present them to him.

"When students are resolved to make a difference in this world, they certainly can. Their insistence on awareness about Darfur, their insistence on making the Prime Minister aware that the three kidnapped Israeli soldiers have still not been returned, showed us that these students want to be a part of the political process and that their voices must be heard," Smith stated.

Smith presented the student organizers and CR Director Faintuch with a photograph of the Prime Minister with the petitions and a photograph that now serves a reminder in the PMO that the soldiers are still being held.

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