

Address by His Grace Bishop Ilarion to the meeting of the Ukrainian
Orthodox Community about the Future of Camp Barvinok,
September 18, 2016

We gather here this afternoon to discuss the future of the property known as Camp Barvinok. As we know, our forefathers came here with one goal: to build a better future for themselves and for the generations to come. They made tremendous sacrifices in their day so that there would be a future for Ukrainian Orthodoxy in Canadian society. And they were very successful, in tough times, of achieving opportunities for growth for themselves and for those who came after them, their children and grandchildren.

Sadly, over time, this Ukrainian Orthodox community has suffered secularization and marginalization, some disunity, and some fragmentation, as the secular corporate design for society has gained strength and popularity with many people. The Church continues to be marginalized and is losing ground in secular society as other priorities take over.

I appeal to the members of St. John's Institute who identify themselves as Orthodox Christians to reconsider their intention of selling the developed part of Camp Barvinok property and instead, to examine all avenues and possibilities that are available to save this property for our children and grandchildren. I appeal to all of you present today to do everything that is possible to save and keep Camp Barvinok property. May God enlighten and help all of us to find a way to solve this problem.