

## OUR MISSION

The Toronto Catholic District School Board is an inclusive learning community uniting home, parish and school and rooted in the love of Christ.  
We educate students to grow in grace and knowledge to lead lives of faith, hope and charity.

## OUR VISION

At Toronto Catholic we transform the world  
through witness, faith, innovation and action.



# AGENDA ADDENDUM THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND WELL BEING, CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

## PUBLIC SESSION

Garry Tanuan, Chair

Teresa Lubinski, Vice-Chair

Thursday, April 2, 2020

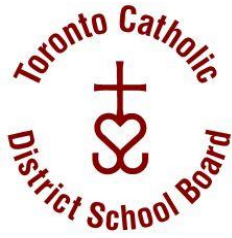
7:00 P.M.

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*Church, regarding Polish Heritage Day and Polish Heritage Month*

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## TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

### DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM FOR STANDING OR OTHER COMMITTEES

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT ALL STANDING  
COMMITTEE MEETINGS ARE BEING RECORDED

For Board Use  
Only

Delegation No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Public  
Session  
☐ Private  
Session  
☐ Three (3)  
Minutes

Name	John Del Grande & Annalisa Crudo-Perri		
Committee	Student Achievement and Well-Being Catholic Education Human Resources		
Date of Presentation	4/2/2020		
Topic of Presentation	Parent Voice		
Topic or Issue	Board Governance & Parent Involvement During School Shutdown		
Details	Communication to be provided		
Action Requested	Consider advice of CPIC & OAPCE		
I am here as a delegate to speak only on my own behalf			
I am an official representative of the Catholic School Parent Committee(CSPC)			
I am an official representative of student government			
I am here as a spokesperson for another group or organization	Yes OAPCE & CPIC		
I have read, understand and agree to comply with the rules for Delegations as per the TCDSB Delegations Policy T14	Yes		
Submittal Date	4/2/2020		

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April 2, 2020

Board of Trustees

VIA: Student Achievement Committee

Dear Trustees,

On behalf of CPIC & OAPCE, we want to recognize the efforts that the Board has been doing to support safety of all, keeping parents informed and transitioning through the different phases of Learn-At-Home.

Educators that are going above and beyond for their students should be celebrated and recognized.

Given the continued projections of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is highly likely that the school year will not return to normal or if anything is to be salvaged may occur in June. While the format of education and where we work is modified, the important functions and various work of this Board cannot come to a halt.

### **Governance**

Despite these usual circumstances, and Trustees must ensure governance continues and in fact, calls for **more** governance not less, to provide direction during these transformational times.

The Minister has provided the ability for all meetings to take place remotely by amending "*Regulation 463/97 removing the requirement for any persons to be physically present at electronic meetings.*"

**It is also important that work continues on important Board decisions, community engagement & policies in plan, although they may be delayed somewhat to ensure that when the new school year begins, the right policies and programs are in place.**

Clear & consistent communications for staff, parents and students is vital – and parents can help provide feedback on what matters most to communicate and when.

### **Parent Involvement & Parent Councils**

Regulation 612 has not been suspended. Parent Councils are still the legislated voice of parents in schools and still need to meet to fulfill their mandate. CPIC continues to communicate with its members and is hosting an online event. OAPCE has continued to have discussions with the Minister of Education and is also communicating with its members planning for online meetings and sessions.

As the province and this Board roll out Phase Two of Learning at Home, hearing the parental voice needs to continue to support priority #1: Student Achievement & Well-Being. Critical discussions around equity and learning supports need to still take place at both the Board and local level.

There are also numerous activities affecting local school communities, methods of engagement and strategies have to be adjusted and parent voices should shape how this can be done.

We have heard from parents three main themes:

- 1) That they are wanting to be a part of continuation of learning with their children
- 2) they want to continue to network with each other to share best practices and lend support
- 3) Be involved more as some find themselves with a little more time, as now outside family commitments, events, activities are no longer taking place.

Parent Council members are asking questions (everything from cancelling events, winding down activities, budget re-allocation, refunds for

lunch days, special events etc..) and while these are by no means urgent, these issues need to be resolved and activities need to be organized.

We would like to ensure the Board continues to support Parent Councils and would ask the Board of Trustees provide direction that: **Principals be required to attend Parent Council meetings that may be held via remote means.**

CPIC and OAPCE has had discussions in terms of what best strategies can take place to alleviate some pressure from board staff who may be currently focused on other concerns relating to the current situation. We are both confident that we can lead and undertake a strategy to reach out to our parents, support them and involve them in CSPC directives.

We hope that everyone & their family continues to be safe during these times and we will be providing supports to parents & Parent Council function over the next few weeks.



John Del Grande  
CPIC Chair



Annalisa Crudo-Perri  
OAPCE Executive Director

Toronto, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020 r.

**Rory McGuckin**  
**Director of Education**  
**Toronto Catholic District School Board**  
**80 Sheppard Ave.**  
**Toronto, ON**

**Re: Declaring May 3rd as Polish Heritage Day and May as Polish Heritage Month  
in the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB)**

**Dear Mr. McGuckin,**

On behalf of the school community of Polish School at Consulate General of Poland, I would like to express my support for the motion of Ms. Teresa Lubinski to declare *May 3<sup>rd</sup> as Polish Heritage Day and May as Polish Heritage Month*.

We are convinced that such declaration will be beneficial to the community by showing yet another group contributing to Canadian society but also world culture and science.

As many of our parents are also members of TCDSB community and TCDSB is also a host of our Saturday school, we feel strongly connected with the board and proud to be able to contribute to the community.

With regards,



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Przemysław Pawluk  
Chair of Parents Council  
Szkoła Polska  
przy Konsulacie Generalnym RP  
w Toronto



CANADIAN POLISH CONGRESS  
**KONGRES POLONII KANADYJSKIEJ**  
CONGRES CANADIEN POLONAIS

3055 LAKE SHORE BLVD. WEST, TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA M8V 1 K6  
Tel: (416) 532-2876 (416) 532-7197; Email: [kongres@kpk.org](mailto:kongres@kpk.org) website: [www.kpk.org](http://www.kpk.org)

April 1, 2020

Mr. Rory McGuckin  
Director of Education  
Toronto Catholic District School Board  
80 Sheppard Ave.  
Toronto, ON M2N 6E8

Dear Mr. McGuckin:

**RE: Recognizing Polish Heritage Day and May as Polish Heritage Month**

It is with great pleasure that I write to you today in support of the motion put before the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) to recognize May 3<sup>rd</sup> as Polish Heritage Day and May as Polish Heritage Month.

As you know, the Polish diaspora has a long-standing presence in Canada stretching back over 160 years, with Toronto as a particularly important community centre and where the Canadian Polish Congress is based. Today, Canada's Polonia numbers over 1.1 million people, with over 200,000 living in the City of Toronto itself. Members of our community actively contribute to the building of our local parishes, communities, cities, provinces and country in all areas of endeavour.

It is important to note that our community continues to proudly and actively celebrate its Catholic faith, including by enrolling our children overwhelming into TCDSB schools and other Catholic School Boards across Ontario and Canada.

I look forward to receiving the good news of the adoption of this motion by the Toronto Catholic District School Board, and to celebrating this initiative with you. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Trustee Teresa Lubinski for her amazing advocacy in this matter.

Sincerely,

John J. Tomczak  
President  
Canadian Polish Congress

cc: Teresa Lubinski, Trustee, Ward 4, TCDSB



# Christ the King Parish

3674 Lake Shore Boulevard West, Toronto, Ontario M8W 1N6  
Tel. 416-251-8983 Fax. 416-251-2951 email: [office@christthekingparish.info](mailto:office@christthekingparish.info)

March 31, 2020

Mr. Rory McGuckin  
Director of Education  
Toronto Catholic District School Board  
80 Sheppard Ave.  
Toronto, ON

email: [rory.mcguckin@tcdsb.org](mailto:rory.mcguckin@tcdsb.org)

Due to the current health situation related to COVID-19 pandemic, parents of the Polish community are unable to physically be present at the meeting, taking place on April 2, 2020 when an important declaration will take place, but would like to express their support for the Polish Heritage Day and Polish Heritage Month through this letter.

Sincerely in Christ,  
Rev. Jozef Morawski, CSMA  
Pastor

cc: Teresa Lubinski, Trustee Ward 4, [teresa.lubinski@tcdsb.org](mailto:teresa.lubinski@tcdsb.org)

Malgorzata & Mariusz Bembenek  
121 Grenadier Rd.  
Toronto ON M6R 1R1  
(416) 538-4801

Mr. Rory McGuckin  
Director of Education  
Toronto Catholic District School Board  
80 Sheppard Ave.  
Toronto, ON  
e-mail: [rory.mcguckin@tcdsb.org](mailto:rory.mcguckin@tcdsb.org)

March 31, 2020

Dear Mr. McGuckin,

**RE: SUPPORT OF NOTICE OF MOTION BY TRUSTEE TERESA LUBINSKI TO  
DECLARE MAY 3<sup>rd</sup> AS POLISH HERITAGE DAY AND MAY AS POLISH  
HERITAGE MONTH IN THE TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
(TCDSB)**

We, the undersigned, Malgorzata and Mariusz Bembenek, are writing this letter in support of the notice of motion by Trustee Teresa Lubinski to declare May 3<sup>rd</sup> as Polish Heritage Day and May as Polish Heritage Month by the TCDSB. Due to the current public health situation, we are not able to be physically present at the meeting on April 2, 2020 and we would like to express our support through this letter.

We are proud parents of four children and three of them are students of the TCDSB. Our oldest already graduated into post-secondary education, while Agata is a grade 11 student at St. Joseph College and our younger boys Artur and Karol are students at St. Vincent de Paul School. Both of us were born in Poland and grew up there. Even though we have lived in Canada for over 25 years, our nationality and Polish culture plays a very vital part of our family life. We want our children to know where their roots are and to be proud of it, we do our best to teach them the language and pass on the legacy of their heritage. We are very grateful to the TCDSB for helping us by offering the International Language Program where our children during Saturday classes are able to learn the Polish language. By officially declaring Polish Heritage Day and Month Board wide our children furthermore can feel more proud and be a part of this beautiful multicultural mosaic the board represents.

The Polish Canadian community has contributed significantly over the years to the growth and development of this country. There are many great Polish Canadians such as Sir Casimir Gzowski or Janusz Zurkowski, just to name some that have greatly contributed to advancement in Canada. Polish culture is very rooted in Christ and Catholic values. This year marks the 100 anniversary of the birth of one of the greatest Poles, St. John Paul II who was a vocal advocate for human rights and a pilgrim that traveled all around the world and shared the Word of God. We are sure that the students of the Toronto Catholic School Board will benefit from the participation and celebration of Polish traditions and culture as it was observed at my children's school on several occasions in the past. Personally, we remember ourselves as graduates of St.

Mary's Catholic Secondary School taking part in such an event many years ago, sharing our talents and polish history with other students.

We support May 3<sup>rd</sup>, to be declared as Polish Heritage Day at the TCDSB as it is Constitution Day in Poland and annually celebrated as Poland's most important Civil Holiday as well as religious holiday, known as Our Lady, Queen of Poland Day. If you require any more information please do not hesitate to contact us at the above number. Thank you for consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Malgorzata Bembenek

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mariusz Bembenek

March 31, 2010

Attention:

Mr. Rory McGukin

Director of Education

Toronto Catholic District School Board

80 Sheppard Ave

Toronto, ON

I am writing on behalf of many families of Polish Heritage who live in Toronto and whose children attend schools in the TCDSB.

Many Poles have immigrated to Canada, with Wilno, Ontario being the first and oldest Polish settlement in Canada, dating as far back as 1858. Toronto's Polish immigration started in the 1870s and has continued ever since. Some of the largest waves of immigrants arrived after the Second World War and settled in and around the Roncesvalles area, and many of their descendants remain there to this day (myself included). As many people know, Roncesvalles Avenue now hosts the largest Polish Festival in North America.

There are many reasons why we should celebrate Polish Heritage in the Toronto Catholic School board. We can celebrate notable Poles in history, from astronomer Nicolas Copernicus (Mikolaj Kopernik), famed pianist-composer Fryderyk Chopin, physicist Marie Sklodowska-Curie who conducted pioneering research on radioactivity, and our dear Holy Father, St. John Paul II, who instituted World Youth Day. The 17<sup>th</sup> World Youth Day occurred in Toronto in 2002, and encouraged young Canadians especially, to strengthen their Catholic faith.

Selecting May 3<sup>rd</sup> as Polish Heritage Day, and May as Polish Heritage month has special significance for Canadians of Polish descent. The month of May is devoted to our Holy Mother, Blessed Virgin Mary Queen of Poland. The Polish nation has always had a special devotion to Mary, as evidenced by the annual national pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, where hundreds of thousands walk from all corners of the country over many weeks, culminating in the feast day of the Assumption of Mary.

Poland was wiped off the map of Europe from 1795-1918, overcame the Nazi Occupation during the Second World War with a fierce resistance, endured over 40 years of Communist oppression with its first transitions to a democratic government that began in 1989. I am proud of my Polish heritage and the rich history of Poland. During today's uncertain times, my ancestors and their struggles inspire me to face whatever challenges lay ahead for us in Toronto, Ontario and Canada.

As students and families of the Toronto Catholic District School Board, we have an opportunity to celebrate Poland and people of Polish heritage that have continued to enrich our lives as Canadians.

Please support Teresa Lubinski's motion to declare May 3<sup>rd</sup> as Polish Heritage Day and May as Polish Heritage Month in the Toronto Catholic District School Board.

Sincerely,

Dr. Anna Lukowski, MD, CM, FACP, Internal Medicine, Hospitalist

Alumnus of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School and St. Joseph's College School, TCDSB

Mother of 4 children who are currently students or former students at St. Vincent de Paul School