



REPORT TO

**STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND
WELL BEING, CATHOLIC
EDUCATION AND HUMAN
RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**PROCLAMATION OF SEPTEMBER AS UKRAINIAN
CANADIAN HERITAGE MONTH AND SEPTEMBER 7
AS UKRAINIAN CANADIAN HERITAGE DAY IN THE
TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

*Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as
his heritage.
Psalm 33:12*

Created, Draft	First Tabling	Review
May 15, 2018	May 31, 2018	Click here to enter a date.
Nick D'Avella, Superintendent of Equity, Diversity, and Indigenous Education John Yan, Senior Coordinator, Communications Media and Public Relations		
RECOMMENDATION REPORT		

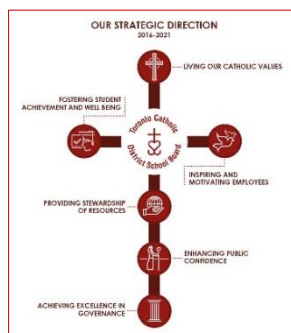
Vision:

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

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.*



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A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the May 2 2018 meeting of the Student Achievement and Well Being, Catholic Education and Human Resources Committee of the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB), a delegation led by a representative of the Catholic School Parent Council of the three TCDSB Eastern Rite Ukrainian Catholic Schools and the Toronto Branch of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress petitioned the Board to proclaim the month of September Ukrainian Canadian Heritage Month. The request was expressed in a letter from the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, dated May 2, 2018, addressed to Trustees of the Toronto Catholic District School care of the Chair. (Appendix A)

The petition to designate September as Ukrainian Canadian Heritage Month in the Toronto Catholic District School Board was supported in a May 2, 2018 letter (Appendix B) to the Chair of the Board from The Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Toronto.

Further, in a letter, dated April 3 2018, to Trustees of the Toronto Catholic District School Board, care of the Chair (Appendix C), the Member of Provincial Parliament for Etobicoke Centre supported the request that September be proclaimed Ukrainian Canadian Heritage Month in the TCDSB.

Recommendations in this report outline the official proclamation and how the Board will use this important opportunity to raise cultural awareness of the Ukrainian Diaspora in Canada.

The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 7 hours.

B. PURPOSE

At the May 2 2018 meeting of the Student Achievement and Well Being, Catholic Education and Human Resources Committee, the request to designate September Ukrainian Canadian Heritage Month and September 7 as Ukrainian Canadian Heritage Day in the Toronto Catholic District School Board was received and referred to staff to come back with a report as soon as possible and no later than May 31, 2018.

C. BACKGROUND

1. The first wave of Ukrainian immigration to Canada began before 1891. In 2016, there were an estimated 1,359,655 persons of full or partial Ukrainian origin residing in Canada, making them Canada's eleventh largest ethnic group and giving Canada the world's third-largest Ukrainian population behind Ukraine itself and Russia. Over 140,000 live in the City of Toronto and many more reside in the surrounding Greater Toronto Area.
2. Ukrainian immigrants and their descendants have left a profound mark on the development of Ontario and Western Canada. They have made and continue to make remarkable contributions to Canada in the fields of culture, the economy, politics and sports. A Ukrainian Canadian, the late Senator Paul Yuzyk, is widely recognized as the "father of multiculturalism." Canada's policy of multiculturalism was announced at the Triennial Congress of Ukrainian Canadians by Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau in 1971.
3. From a faith perspective, the importance of the church in the life of Toronto's Ukrainian community maybe judged by the fact that the first building that Ukrainians erected in Toronto was a church. This was St. Josaphat's Ukrainian Catholic Church (now a cathedral) built in 1913-14. Today, there are more than ten Ukrainian Orthodox, Catholic, Pentecostal, and Evangelical Baptist churches in the Greater Toronto Area boasting active parish communities.
4. In recognition of the contributions of Ukrainians globally and to the fabric of our communities as well as TCDSB's commitment to educating students about social injustice, peace and sacredness of human life, the Toronto Catholic District School Board, proclaimed the 4th Friday of November as "Holodomor Memorial Day", a day dedicated to the loss of millions of Ukrainian lives at the hands of the Soviet Regime during the great famine of 1932-1933;
5. The Toronto Catholic District School Board has also benefited greatly from student enrolment from this community. The Ukrainian community in the TCDSB has made significant contributions to our schools by sharing Ukrainian values, cultural richness, language and diversity.

D. ACTION PLAN

1. An official proclamation (Appendix D) designating September as Ukrainian Canadian Heritage Month and September 7 as Ukrainian Canadian Heritage

Day, coinciding with the Province of Ontario's establishment of September 7 as Ukrainian Heritage Day, will be signed by the Board Chair and the Director of the Board and distributed to the TCDSB community.

2. The Community Relations Department will partner with the Ukrainian Canadian Community Toronto Education Committee and other key members of the Ukrainian Canadian community to acquire resources to support the celebration of Ukrainian Canadian Heritage Month.
3. Information about Ukrainian Canadian Heritage, as well as educational and promotional materials that support the celebration of Ukrainian Canadian Heritage Month will be made available to school administrators, students, and parents via the Board portal.

E. METRICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

1. The Communications and Community Relations Departments will monitor school participation in this initiative through mainstream media coverage, social media (Twitter), and online contributions received to our website in the form of tweets, photos, exhibits and other materials.
2. The Community Relations Department will monitor school community engagement in this initiative through school activities and programs that highlight the contributions of the Ukrainian Canadian community.

F. IMPLEMENTATION, STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN

1. A communication plan will be implemented using all available communication tools to publicize and promote this proclamation to the entire TCDSB community via school newsletters, the exchange email system, to CSPCs CIPC, and OAPC-Toronto.
2. Strategic actions will focus on both mainstream media and community-based media (with a focus on Ukrainian Canadian media) supported by communications modalities including, but not limited to, online web custom designed micro-site, e-news, Twitter, and Instagram.

G. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that September be proclaimed Ukrainian Canadian Heritage Month and September 7 Ukrainian Canadian Heritage Day in the Toronto Catholic District School Board as outlined in Appendix D.