

Appendix D

OFFICIAL PROCLAMATION:

September as Ukrainian Canadian Heritage Month and September 7 as Ukrainian Heritage Day in the TCDSB

WHEREAS September is significant for Ukrainian Canadians as it closely follows annual traditional celebrations of Ukraine's Independence (August 24th), Ontario's Ukrainian Heritage Day (September 7th) and Toronto's Bloor West Village Ukrainian Festival in the City of Toronto;

AND WHEREAS more than 25 percent of Canada's 1.4 million Ukrainian Canadians live in the Greater Toronto Area representing the largest Ukrainian community outside of the Ukraine and Russia;

AND WHEREAS Ukrainians have had a central role in building Canada for over 125 years, playing an important role in the development of Ontario, and the City of Toronto into one of the most desirable places in the world in which to live through its community leaders who have contributed significantly to the nation's multicultural mosaic in the areas of politics, business, education, sports, music and the arts;

AND WHEREAS the Ukrainian Canadian community and the Eastern Rite Ukrainian Catholic Church have had a strong 50-plus year relationship with the Toronto Catholic District School Board resulting in a vibrant, synergistic partnership that created Eastern Rite Ukrainian Schools which pioneered full- day kindergarten in Ontario, while also establishing academic excellence based on a rich, faith-based learning environment for all generations of Ukrainian Canadians in the Toronto area;

AND WHEREAS the religious, cultural and academic traditions embodied by our Eastern Rite Ukrainian Schools of Josyf Cardinal Slipyj, St. Demetrius and St. Josaphat are supported by a nourishing and engaged community that has created learning environment that augments the Ontario Ministry of Education curriculum with spiritually rich and diverse cultural programming;

THEREFORE, the Toronto Catholic District School Board hereby proclaims September as Ukrainian Canadian Heritage Month and September 7th as Ukrainian Canadian Heritage Day.