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Consulate General  
of the Republic of Poland  
in Toronto

Toronto, 26<sup>th</sup> of February 2020

Mr. Rory McGuckin  
Director of Education  
Toronto Catholic District School Board

*Dear Director McGuckin,*

I would like to kindly request that the Toronto Catholic District School Board consider celebrating the **Polish Heritage Month in May 2020** with its tens of thousands of Polish students in our elementary and secondary schools. Specifically, we would like to request the declaration and meaningful celebration of **Polish Constitution Day on May 3<sup>rd</sup>**. In addition we would like to ask TCDSB for the same celebration every year thereafter.

To promote the **Polish Heritage Month we would like to propose** various educational and cultural activities within identified high ratio of Polish heritage students and staff at elementary and secondary schools. **Polish Heritage Month** is going to be supported by Polish organizations and associations together with Consulate General and members of our large Polish community. There are over **1.1 million Canadians who claim full or partial Polish ancestry**, of whom over 145,000 reside in the City of Toronto, with many attending Catholic schools. The Toronto Catholic District School Board has benefited from the participation and celebration of Polish traditions and culture, through student, parent, staff and Parish engagements in a number of our schools.

I am confident that the Polish rich cultural heritage and passion for our Catholic faith would greatly enhance TCDSB's Mission and Vision. In addition, officially **2020 is St. John Paul II year in Poland** (May 18, 2020 marks 100 years since the birth of St. John Paul II), thus we would like to entrust our youth to his safekeeping. Our great compatriot is guiding light to all of us and we are determine to promote his legacy.

I will certainly much appreciate your favorable consideration of our request.

*Most sincerely,*

Krzysztof Grzelczyk  
Consul General

CC:

1. Joseph Martino, Chair of the TCDSB Board
2. Teresa Lubinski, Trustee Ward 4