



Consulate General
of the Republic of Poland
in Toronto

Toronto, 28 January 2022

Mr. Brendan Browne
Director of Education
Toronto Catholic District School Board
80 Sheppard Ave. E
Toronto, ON

LETTER OF SUPPORT

I am writing to express my support for establishing at Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) April 10th as a day of remembrance of the Katyń massacre victims and the Smoleńsk air disaster.

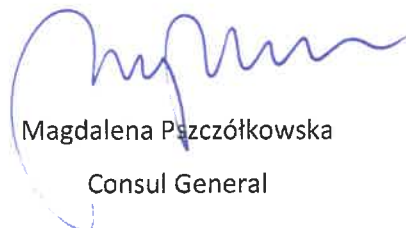
Katyń massacre is one of the most painful pages in Polish history that cannot be forgotten. The size of the tragedy in which officers of the Polish Army, policemen, representatives of the Polish intelligentsia and cultural elites were killed by the Soviets in the spring of 1940, was covered with silence by communists for many years. In 1980 Toronto became a home for the first Katyń Monument erected abroad in the public place.

Unfortunately, there is another painful date in the recent history of Poland. On 10 April 2010, a government Tu-154M plane crashed near Smolensk, Russia, killing 96 passengers, including Polish President Lech Kaczyński and the First Lady Maria Kaczyńska, the last President of Poland in Exile Ryszard Kaczorowski, the Deputy Speakers of the Sejm and Senate, a group of parliamentarians as well as many others. A Polish official delegation was flying to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Katyń massacre.

The memory of these two painful tragedies is extremely important for every member of the Polish community, both living in Poland and abroad. Decision on establishing at Toronto Catholic District School Board April 10th as a day of remembrance of the Katyń massacre victims and the Smoleńsk air disaster will be a very meaningful gesture for members of Polish community, both students and parents, in TCDSB's district.

Canada as a multicultural country with high respect to values, different cultures, as well as diversity leads national wide example of tolerance and remembrance policy. As a Consul General of the Republic of Poland I fully support TCDSB's diversity and its commitment towards historical truth and catholic values.

Sincerely yours,



Magdalena Pęczółkowska
Consul General