



CANADIAN POLISH CONGRESS
KONGRES POLONII KANADYJSKIEJ
CONGRÈS CANADIEN POLONAIS

3055 LAKE SHORE BLVD. WEST, TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA M8V 1K6

TEL: (416) 532-2876 (416) 532-7197

email: kongres@kpk.org

website: www.kpk.org

April 10, 2018, Toronto

**Canadian Polish Congress statement
On Katyń Memorial Day**

Today marks Katyń Memorial Day, which commemorates the deliberate execution of tens of thousands of members of the Polish Officer Corps and intelligentsia by the Soviet NKVD in the Katyń Forest in 1940. Over 22,000 of Poland's best and brightest were murdered on the orders of Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin over a period of several weeks beginning in April 1940 in an attempt to undermine the Polish nation. Each of the victims was lined up and shot in the back of the head and buried in mass graves near Smolensk, Russia. These events were a direct result of the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact, by way of which Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union became allies, pursuing a brutal joint invasion of Poland and dividing the country between them. For decades, the Soviet Union denied any responsibility for this heinous war crime. Only after the fall of the USSR did the truth emerge.

Today, and in the coming weeks, let us remember those who were murdered in this act of genocide against the Polish nation.