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# CANADIAN POLISH CONGRESS KONGRES POLONII KANADYJSKIEJ CONGRES CANADIEN POLONAIS

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Edmonton September 06, 2024

Leslie Weir  
Librarian and Archivist of Canada  
Library and Archives Canada  
395 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0N4

Dear Ms. Weir,

On behalf of the Canadian Polish Congress, I write to express our strong support for the release of the names of 900 members of the Ukrainian Waffen SS Galizien division who fled to Canada after the Second World War, as referenced in recent reports.

The pursuit of historical transparency is a principle that we believe must always guide the actions of public institutions, especially in matters of such profound importance. Canada has a long and proud tradition of standing against injustice and upholding the principles of human rights. By providing full access to this information, Library and Archives Canada can help uphold Canada's commitment to historical accuracy and accountability.

The Polish community has a deep and personal connection to these historical events. Many members of our community are descendants of victims and survivors of Nazi atrocities, including those perpetrated by SS Galizien, including veterans and combatants that fought alongside Canada, Great Britain and other allies to defeat Nazi tyranny in Europe.

The Canadian Polish Congress believes that the greater risk lies in secrecy and omission. The Polish-Canadian community feels that any reluctance to release these names may only deepen existing wounds. It is only by confronting the full truth of our past that we can hope to bring a sense of justice and closure to the many families and communities who continue to grapple with the horrors of that period.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important issue. We trust that Library and Archives Canada will make the right decision in favor of openness and historical integrity.

Sincerely,

John J. Tomczak  
President  
Canadian Polish Congress  
cc: Hon. Pascale St-Onge, PC, MP, Minister of Canadian Heritage



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