



KATYŃ MASSACRE AND SMOLENSK AIR DISASTER

Canadian Polish Congress – Toronto District

April 15, 2018

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I am honoured to join the Polish Canadian community in marking the 78th anniversary of the Katyń Massacre and the eighth anniversary of the Smolensk Air Disaster.

Today, we honour the memory of the more than 20,000 Polish citizens who lost their lives in the Katyń Massacre of April and May 1940. These mass murders serve as a reminder of the horrors of war and the price of intolerance and aggression. Through remembrance and reflection, we strengthen our resolve to learn from the lessons of the past, reject every form of violence and hatred, and vow never to forget those who perished.

On this day we also remember the 96 people who perished in the Smolensk Air Disaster while travelling to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Katyń Massacre. Among them were Polish President Lech Kaczyński, First Lady Maria Kaczyńska, senior members of the Polish Government, clergy and relatives of the victims of the Katyń Massacre.

These two tragedies will forever be linked. Ontarians stand with the Polish Canadian community as it marks this solemn occasion.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kathleen Wynne".

Kathleen Wynne
Premier