

Minister
of Citizenship
and Immigration



Ministre
de la Citoyenneté
et de l'Immigration

Ottawa, Canada K1A 1L1

Greetings from the Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism

The Katyn massacre of 1940, which cost the lives of more than 22 000 members of Polish intelligentsia, including officers, statesmen, and clerics, among many others, was one of the most tragic and disgraceful travesties in history. Victims of this genocide were held prisoner by the Red Army and murdered in mass executions throughout the Soviet Union on the orders of Joseph Stalin. Communist authorities denied the massacre for decades until 1990 when they finally admitted to these war crimes.

Our Government works closely with members of the Polish community in Canada as well as many other communities still affected by Communist and Nazi oppression. I recently completed a trip to Ukraine, during which I visited the memorial at Bykivnia, one of the sites of the Katyn massacre.

The number of people still affected by the actions of Communism and Nazism is evidenced by the fact that there are currently two memorials, both in the planning stages, which will be erected in the National Capital Region and will serve to remind us all of the lessons history has taught that should never be forgotten. I encourage all Canadians to join in remembrance of this tragic event in history.

On behalf of the Government of Canada and all Canadians, I extend my sympathy and solidarity to the people of Poland, and I offer my condolences to the families of those who perished in the Katyn Massacre.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Kenney".

The Honourable Jason Kenney, PC, MP
Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism

