

CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by: Mayor David Miller

Seconded by: Councillor Peter Milczyn

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council on behalf of all Torontonians are deeply saddened by the untimely death of Polish president Lech Kaczynski, First Lady Maria Kaczynska and all of the 95 passengers, including many of Poland's government, military and religious leaders, aboard the tragic plane crash at Smolensk, Russia on April 10, 2010.

The loss of President Kaczynski and so many significant figures in Poland's long struggle for freedom is a truly profound loss for Poland and the world. The scope of this great tragedy is only deepened as the group was en route to a ceremony commemorating the 70th anniversary of the massacre at Katyn – one of Poland's greatest national traumas in which 22,000 prisoners-of-war, representing nearly the entire office corps of the Polish military, were brutally murdered.

Among the passengers on the plane were the last president of the Polish government-in-exile Ryszard Kaczorowski, members of the Senate, members of the Sejm, religious figures and several of Poland's highest military dignitaries including the army chief of staff, the navy chief commander and heads of the air and land forces.

Canada has long shared a historic bond with Poland and this relationship is especially important to the City of Toronto. Toronto is home to one of the country's largest Polish communities and has been linked with the City of Warsaw as a Friendship City since 1990. This year marks the 20th anniversary of Toronto's ties with Warsaw and Torontonians join with people around the world to mourn the loss of President Kaczynski and so many significant leaders of the Polish nation.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to the Polish government, the people of Poland and to the families of everyone lost in this tragic accident.

April 15, 2010