



COUNCIL OF THE CANADIAN POLISH CONGRESS FOR THE SUPPORT  
OF POLISH STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

KOMITET KONGRESU POLONII KANADYJSKIEJ WSPIERANIA  
POLSKICH STUDIÓW NA UNIWERSYTECIE TORONTOŃSKIM

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Dear Friends of the Polish Studies Program,

*Lively and demanding ... broadening the intellectual horizon ... bringing students closer to their Polish roots.* Even a quick look at the attached testimonials by the students and alumni of the prestigious Polish Language and Literature Program, confirms its lasting impact on students' lives. But costs are rising, and—if the Program is to continue and maintain its high quality—it will need the ongoing support of the Polish community.

Over the last ten years the Council has concentrated its efforts on raising funds for an endowment that would ensure the continuation of a complete range of Polish language instruction for the indefinite future. So far, your contributions to the Polish Studies Fund have reached just under \$212,000. Thanks to the generosity of our donors we also have \$35,000 in the Roman Wrzesnewskij's Fund and \$16,000 in the Adam Mickiewicz Foundation Fund. In addition, this year the Organization of the Veterans of the Polish Second Corps of the Eighth Army set up a fund in its name with a very generous donation of \$50,000, bringing the total for all these funds to just under \$313,000.

Thank you!

Now, as we continue with our mission, we are asking once again for your generosity. All donations are welcome and there are many ways of giving. The simplest one is to fill out the enclosed card and mail it in together with a cheque or via credit card. Other donation routes to consider are securities, life insurance proceeds or via a will. Visit our web site for details about the alternatives possible. Receipts for income tax purposes will be issued for all donations.

**Please make your donation now to The Polish Studies Fund. Your gift will assure that new generations of students will continue to experience the depth and breadth of the Polish culture of which we are all so proud.**

E-mail addresses:  
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## Testimonials from Graduates of the Polish Language and Literature Program

... The four half-credit Polish Culture courses were the most enriching of my university experience. ... I was impressed by the quality of the course, the wealth of resources but more importantly by the hard work and tireless dedication of the professors, most notably Professor Tamara Trojanowska.

**Teresa Biderman**, Family Resource Centre Coordinator, University of Toronto (Current)

... these courses broadened my horizons, improved my language skills and allowed me to connect with Polish culture. Given the tremendous intellectual growth I experienced, I am proud to financially support the Polish Studies program this year with a donation and hope you will too!

**Dr. Michael Surkont**, U of T Polish Studies Alumnus, Family and Emergency Room Physician

Enrolling in the Polish Program at the University of Toronto has been a turning point in my life. ... the Polish Program helped me realize not only my scholarly potential but also the role of university as a place where we learn about our duties to our communities as educated citizens. Twelve years and a PhD in Comparative Literature later, I can't overestimate the life-changing impact the Program and its instructors had on my personal, intellectual, and professional growth.

**Dr. Lukasz Wodzyński**, Sessional Lecturer, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of Toronto

My studies at the Slavic department brought me closer to my Polish roots. I strengthened my Polish language skills, better understood the history and culture of the country, and developed lasting friendships. ... These courses were the highlight of my academic career.

**Lucy Szczesniak**, Hon.B.Sc, MI, MFC (2016)

The program offers a wide range of graduate courses which accommodate varied perspectives and theoretical approaches, and at the same time equip students with a thorough knowledge of Polish literature and culture. The courses I took were extremely stimulating: they provided a supportive setting for critical reflection, and helped me develop intellectual independence, responsibility, and discipline. ... The Polish program provided me with an opportunity to develop my own courses and teach Polish language and culture at all undergraduate levels. This experience proved invaluable, and subsequently helped me earn a full-time teaching position at Indiana University.

**Lukasz Sicinski**, PhD Candidate, Dept. of Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of Toronto

My time as an undergraduate student at the Polish program was filled with lively seminars with students from biology, engineering, art history, business management, and the list goes on. The inviting environment that the instructors of the language and literature courses created, was an ideal setting for a student to examine the reasons and goals of their personal choice of enrolling for a Polish related class even if they had no personal ties with the country or language itself. The courses and the passionate instructors are the main reason that such a time for self-discovery is possible and this allows each student to make a valuable personal connection to the specific content. My experience with the Polish program has been highly rewarding and I cannot stress enough my gratitude for its existence.

**Marcin Cieszkiew**

The Polish Program at the University of Toronto provides students with an exciting opportunity to learn about Polish culture and literature within a wider global perspective. Professor Tamara Trojanowska is an inspirational lecturer who shares her passion for her subject with undergraduate and graduate students alike.

**Olga Ponichtera**, PhD., B.Ed., Communications Instructor, George Brown College