

August 22, 2019

Mr. John Tomczak
President, National Board of Directors
Canadian Polish Congress
3055 Lake Shore Blvd W
Toronto, ON M8V 1K6

Mr. Bartłomiej Habrowski
President
Canadian Polish Congress Toronto District
206 Beverley Street
Toronto, ON M5T 1Z3

cc: Mr. Juliusz Kirejczyk, First Vice President / Canadian Affairs, Canadian Polish Congress
cc: Executive Board of Directors, Canadian Polish Congress Toronto District
cc: Executive Board of Directors, 28 member organizations under the Canadian Polish Congress Toronto District umbrella

Sent via email on behalf of a group of concerned citizens

Dear Mr. Tomczak and Mr. Habrowski,

As you are aware, an anti-Semitic open letter, dated April 12, 2019, entitled *LIST OTWARTY DO POLONII KANADYJSKIEJ*, and signed by Mr. Bartłomiej Habrowski, President of the Canadian Polish Congress (CPC) Toronto District, was published on the CPC Toronto District website on May 27, 2019 – the online date of publication as was provided on the CPC Toronto District website.

The letter clearly alludes to anti-Semitic conspiracy theories, embeds video of a Polish far-right extremist pronouncing anti-Semitic rhetoric, and calls on Canada's over one million Polonia to support the "initiative" of the extremist spewing hateful anti-Semitism in the embedded video.

We, the undersigned, a group of concerned citizens, hold strongly that it is our moral duty and responsibility to stand up against anti-Semitism and all forms of hate and that it is categorically unacceptable for hateful content to have appeared on a CPC website.

In response to a letter of complaint - dated August 16, 2019 and sent to Mr. John Tomczak via email on August 17, 2019 – Mr. Tomczak acted quickly to have the offensive publication removed from the CPC Toronto website. In the email exchange between Mr. Tomczak and the complainant, Mr. Matthew Samulewski, a member of Canada's Polonia community, Mr. Tomczak confirmed that the Canadian Polish Congress "firmly stands against racism and anti-semitism in all its forms."

We are grateful to Mr. Tomczak for his immediate response and quick action in having the letter removed. We also appreciate Mr. Tomczak's further statement against racism and anti-Semitism.

We, the undersigned, call on Mr. Bartłomiej Habrowski to resign, on principle and of his own accord, as President of the CPC Toronto District. With this letter and publication, he has brought discredit to the

community leadership position he still currently holds, and he has brought dishonour to the CPC and to Polonia in Toronto and Canada.

Expressing one's opposition to another country's laws is fair and legitimate in a free and democratic society. Resorting to anti-Semitism to communicate that political opposition is racist and unacceptable. Using the vehicle of the CPC to publicize such intolerant dissent is indecent and is an insult to Canadian Polonia.

Not only has this anti-Semitic incident placed a dark cloud over the CPC - the letter had remained public under the CPC banner for over two and a half months – but, because the CPC's stated purpose is to "represent Canada's Polish community, its interests and the interests of Polish Canadians,"¹ that same shadow falls on Canada's Polonia community as a whole.

This cloud must be lifted.

We note, in the CPC's publicly available General Operating By-Law, in Section 10.01, that "All Districts are autonomous internal operating divisions of the Congress ***acting in accordance with the governing documents of the Congress and the Act***" (NB – bolded italics our own).²

The executives of the national CPC, of the CPC local district branches, and the 28 member organizations under the CPC Toronto District umbrella can also help determine whether Mr. Habrowski can, in good conscience, carry on in his position of responsibility and leadership following this disgraceful incident.

Attached is a screen shot of the open letter in question. The screen shot was acquired on August 16, 2019.

Please note, the date of online publication of the open letter as was provided on the CPC Toronto District website is May 27, 2019.

The letter was removed from the CPC Toronto District website on August 17, 2019.

We look forward to your very prompt response.

Sincerely,

Grace Balogh, Polish Alliance of Canada, Group 2
Sabina Baral, Author of *Zapiski z wygnania*, Menlo Park, CA
Edward Baral, MD, PhD, Menlo Park, CA
Anne Barrachin, Paris, France
Zbigniew Belz, *Editor, "Gazeta," Toronto, ON*
Teresa Berezowski, Chair, World Polonia Council

¹ <http://kpk.org/articles-of-continuance>

² <http://kpk.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/GOB.pdf> Further, in the same document, Section 1.01(a) reads: "Act" means the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, S.C. 2009, c. 23, including any regulations made pursuant to the Act and any statute or regulations that may be substituted, as amended from time to time." Section 1.01(t) reads: "Governing Documents" means the Articles (including the Purposes), this Bylaw, all other By-laws and all Policies of the Congress, as adopted or amended from time to time."

Bogdan Białek, Prezes, Stowarzyszenie im. Jana Karskiego, Kielce, Poland
Małgorzata P. Bonikowska, PhD, Editor-in-Chief, "Gazeta" and POLcast
Gabriela Bragues, Dundas, ON
Victoria Bragues, LLM Human Rights, Dundas ON
Victor M. Bragues, Dundas, ON
Dr. Mikołaj Brykczyński, Retired Teacher, Toronto, ON
Dawid Burzynski, Toronto, ON
Krystyna Chiger, Co-Author, *Girl in the Green Sweater*
Dagmara Chraplewska-Kończ, Toruń, Poland
Lucien Conrad, Past President, National Board of Directors, Canadian Polish Congress
Micha Czyzewska, Leven, Fife, Scotland
Yolanda Czyzewski-Bragues, Vice-President, Canadian Polish Congress, Hamilton District
Beata Dżon Ozimek, Journalist, Poland
Alicja Gettlich, Past Secretary General, National Board of Directors, Canadian Polish Congress
Helen Glogowski, President, Canadian Polish Congress, Hamilton District
Dr. Dorota Glowacka, Professor at University of King's College, Halifax, NS
Alon Goldman, Chairman, The Association of Czestochowa Jews in Israel; Vice President, The World Society of Czestochowa Jews and their Descendants
Aleksander Goss, Toronto, ON
Barbara Goss, Toronto, ON
Ewa Goss, Toronto, ON
Prof. Jan Grabowski, Department of History, University of Ottawa
Matthew Green, Past Executive Director, Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion; Former Ward 4 Hamilton City Councillor
Barbara Grünberg, Film Producer, Yonkers, NY
Sławomir Grünberg, PhD, Film Director, Yonkers, NY
Teresa Hauderowicz, Ottawa, ON
Zbigniew Hauderowicz, Ottawa, ON
Ewa Henry, Artist and Columnist, Toronto, ON
Małgorzata Imielska, Film Director, Poland
Elizabeth Jassem, Toronto, ON
Piotr Jassem, Past President, Polish-Jewish Heritage Foundation of Canada, Toronto Chapter
Daniel Karpinski, Toronto, ON
Krzysztof Kasprzyk, Retired Teacher, Blogger
Mohammed Khan, Mississauga, ON
Kasia Kietlinska, Oakland University, Oakland, CA
Bogusława Kopcewicz, Ottawa, ON
Anna Krajewski, Cambridge, ON
Janet Kronick, Hamilton, ON
Jolanta Kulik, Warsaw, Poland
Robert Langtry, Winnipeg, MB
Dr. Nathan Leipziger, PhD (Hon.), Recipient of Krzyzem Oficerskim Orderu Zaslugi Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej
Henry Lewkowicz, Ottawa, ON
Dorota Liliental, Actress, Poland
Joanna Liliental, PhD, Stanford, CA
Dr. Witold Liliental, Retired Metallurgist and Journalist

Thomas A. Lukaszuk, Former Deputy Premier of Alberta; Former Minister of Education; Former Minister of Employment and Immigration; Former Minister of Enterprise and Advanced Education, Province of Alberta

Annette Lütkenhaus, Hamilton, ON

Ursula Madey, Journalist, Producer and Host of Radio BIS Hamilton

Alexandre Magdzinski, Montreal, QC

Jadwiga Majchrzak, Parzniew, Poland

Iwona Majewska, Toronto, ON

John Marynowicz, Hamilton, ON

Michael J. Miasek, Attorney-at-Law, Former Member of Canadian Polish Congress Executive, Toronto, ON

Martin Michalak, Winnipeg, MB

John Mokrycke, Hamilton, ON

Michael Newmark, Brooklyn, NY

Klara Odinocki, Ottawa, ON

Peter Osko, Pickering, ON

Renata Ozimek, Toronto, ON

Daniel Paisner, Co-Author, *Girl in the Green Sweater*

Prof. Rafal Pankowski, Collegium Civitas, and President of “NEVER AGAIN” Association, Poland

Barb Paradowski, Toronto, ON

Andrew Paradowski, Milton, ON

Elio Pecorero, Toronto, ON

Ami Stefan Pemper, Haifa, Israel

Agata Pilitowska, Actress, Canada

Paulina Pisarek, Ottawa, ON

Bożena Przedborski Miller, Montreal, QC

Katka Reszke, Director, ReelAbilities Film Festival, Boston, MA

Rachael Romero, Author and Holocaust Educator, Miami Beach, FL, USA

Ron Rubin, Hamilton, ON

Gustavo Rymberg, CEO, Hamilton Jewish Federation

Daniella Samulewski, Mississauga, ON

Leo Samulewski, Toronto, ON

Mary Samulewski, Past President, St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish Council, Toronto

Matthew Samulewski, Ottawa, ON

Donna Sally, Toronto, ON

Jowita Sapała, Łódź, Poland

Beata Skibinska, Mississauga, ON

Piotr Sobierajski, Ottawa, ON

Grzegorz Sobocki, Former President, Canadian Polish Congress

Ewa Sobolewska, Mississauga, ON

Marta Stiteler, Hamilton, ON

Estera Styniewska, Czestochowa, Poland

Prof. Magda Stroinska, McMaster University

Krystyna Styrna, Toronto, ON

Krystyna Świrski, Retired Teacher

Marek Świrski, Volunteer at Salon of Music, Poetry and Theater

Louiza Szacoń, Board of Directors, Konekt Polish Canadian Professionals

Małgorzata Szatkowska, Lublin, Poland

Larry Szpirglas, Hamilton, ON

Katie Szymanski, London, UK

Dr. Anna Tatar, "NEVER AGAIN" Association, Poland

Chantal Thompson, Milton, ON

Dr. Jolanta Urbańska, Wiceprzewodnicząca Rady Miasta Częstochowy; Prezes, Stowarzyszenia Demokratyczna RP, Poland

Marzena Walkowiak, PHD, Centennial College

Philip Weir, Leven, Fife, Scotland

Dorota Wiland, Grodzisk Mazowiecki, Poland

Piotr J. Wróbel, Professor and Konstanty Reynert Chair of Polish Studies, University of Toronto

Maciej Wróblewski, Warsaw, Poland

Wit Wojnarowicz, Radio BIS Hamilton

Monika Wyrzykowska, Former Member, Board of Directors, Canadian Polish Congress

Marcin Zachara, Toronto, ON

Lusia Zylbermann, Toronto, ON