



*A message from the Director of Education
and Chair of the Board*

UKRAINIAN CANADIAN HERITAGE MONTH

The Toronto Catholic District School Board has proclaimed the month of September as Ukrainian Canadian Heritage Month, and will observe **Ukrainian Canadian Heritage Day on September 7**.

This month gives all TCDSB stakeholders an opportunity to continue to celebrate our diversity and commemorate our history. Culture is such a strong part of people's lives – influencing perspectives and values. Through a number of Ukrainian Canadian Heritage events and activities, students will gain a better understanding and an appreciation for the multicultural identity that shapes our city. They will have an opportunity to learn about a cultural background that may differ from their own and grow to be more appreciative of others.

We recognize the vast contributions that Ukrainians have made in Canada since 1891. For more than 128 years, community leadership in the areas of politics, business, education, sports, music and the arts contributed to our nation's multicultural mosaic. More than 25 percent of Canada's 1.4 million Ukrainian Canadians live in the Greater Toronto Area, representing the largest Ukrainian community outside of Ukraine and Russia.

The Ukrainian Canadian community and the Eastern Rite Ukrainian Catholic Church have had a strong relationship with the TCDSB for over 50 years. This has resulted in a vibrant, synergistic partnership that created Eastern Rite Ukrainian Schools, which pioneered full-day kindergarten in Ontario, while also establishing academic excellence based on a rich, faith-based learning environment for all generations of Ukrainian Canadians in the Toronto area.

The TCDSB is committed to the equity, diversity and inclusivity of everyone in our Catholic community. We know that exposure to more than one culture and language is a resource that can enrich the entire school community, and we look forward to celebrating the many Ukrainian Canadian Heritage Month events and activities taking place this month.

For a full list of events, visit the [Ukrainian Canadian Heritage page](#) on our website.

Насолоджуйтеся святом! – Enjoy the celebration!

Sincerely,

Rory McGuckin
Director of Education

Maria Rizzo
Chair of the Board