

The Canadian Polish Research Institute



presents the

CPRI



Memoir Competition

For

Polish Immigrants and Polish Descendants Living in Canada

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Did you arrive in Canada after 1982? Tell your story!

Why did you emigrate from Poland? How did your life in Canada begin?

What happened after? How did you and your family settle in a new country?

We strongly encourage young Polish people to tell their stories of life in Canada.

Authenticity of stories is essential. Selected memoirs will be published in a book and on the Canadian Polish Research Institute website.

Guidelines:

- Send your memoirs via text, audio or video format.
- Entries can be submitted in Polish or English.
- Deadline to submit: **June 1, 2012** via email to: **institute@canadianpolishinstitute.org**
- 30-page maximum for text submissions.
- 1-hour maximum for audio or video submissions.
- The Institute reserves the right to edit submissions upon consultation with author.
- To review excerpts of previously published memoirs visit:
www.canadianpolishinstitute.org/memoirs

History of memoir publishing at the Institute:

From 1971 to 1990, the Canadian Polish Research Institute published six books of memoirs, thereby recording the stories of Polish immigrants in Canada since the 1920s. The last volume contains the memoirs of Poles who immigrated before 1981. The Institute deems the collection of memoirs essential to the preservation of the Polish diaspora in Canada and will continue this tradition.

United by the experience of leaving Poland and then starting their lives in Canada, the writers of the memoirs had different reasons for emigrating and had various life experiences. Their level of education varied and they represented different socio-economic groups. Their memoirs are candid – they describe the daily struggles and successes immigrants and their families faced. Some authors had very basic writing skills; their memoirs present a record of non-standard and rare forms of the written language. Upon review of the memoirs, it is clear these people all faced a new reality which they adapted to and eventually identified with.

Past memoirs can be accessed on: **www.canadianpolishinstitute.org**



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