

Grand Jewish Museum to Open in the Polish Capital Next Year

**Presentation by Peter Jassem,
Canadian Representative of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw.**

When: Sunday, April 22, 2012, 2:00 PM
Where: Montreal Museum of Fine Arts
 1370 Sherbrooke Street West
 Free Admission

The \$120 million new Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw — built on the site in the former Warsaw Ghetto and facing the famous Nathan Rappaport monument commemorating the heroes of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising of April 19, 1943 — is scheduled to open just months following the 70th anniversary of that historic event, in the fall of next year.

As the world's first and only museum to focus on the history of **Polish** Jews, the Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw will stand on par in its significance with the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC and Jerusalem's Yad Vashem. However, the tragic culmination of the Jewish presence in Poland inflicted by the Nazis, will be featured in only one of the eight galleries depicting distinct periods of the history of Polish Jews and their rich civilization created over the course of nearly 1000 years. Today over 50% of world Jewry can trace their roots to Poland.

An initiative of the Association of the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw this 140,000 sq. ft. cutting-edge educational and cultural centre is built under the auspices of the presidents of Israel and Poland.

In accordance with the terms of the founding agreement, the Polish Ministry of Culture and National Heritage and the City of Warsaw fully finance the construction of the Museum building, while the Association assumed responsibility to fund and produce the Core Exhibition at a cost of over \$40 million. The Association has been very successful to date and is reaching out to donors and friends around the world to raise the shortfall of \$12 million.

Peter Jassem, chair of the Polish-Jewish Heritage Foundation of Canada, Toronto Chapter, will speak about the history, the importance, the rich contents and the role of the Museum, against the backdrop of the revival of Jewish life in Poland and the dramatic increase in interest in Jewish Culture. He will also discuss his personal experience in discovering his Jewish roots which led to his fascination in this project and to his major involvement in its promotion, all on a volunteer basis.

Organized by the Polish-Jewish Heritage Foundation of Canada, Montreal Chapter, and sponsored by the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Montreal the event will include remarks by Consul General Tadeusz Żylinski and will feature Klezmer music with a touch of Jazz by the acclaimed Jan Jarczyk Trio. A reception will follow.

For more information about the museum please visit its official website at www.jewishmuseum.org.pl/en/

For more information about the Montreal event contact Jola Duniewicz, Chair, The Polish-Jewish Heritage Foundation of Canada, Montreal Chapter, at (514) 694-0601, or via e-mail at jola_duniewicz@hotmail.com