

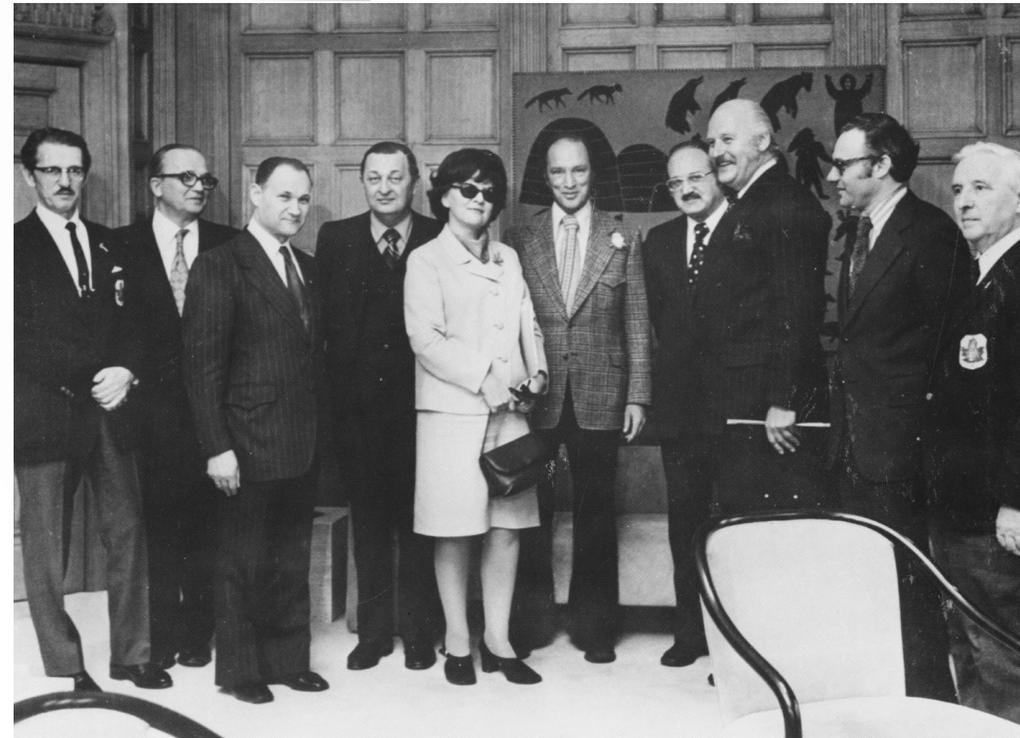
# Teresa Kott-Malachowska

(1926-2003)

Sociologist, community activist



POLISH SPIRIT



Teresa Kott-Malachowska was born in Warsaw as a descendant of Stanislaw Malachowski, a leading eighteenth-century parliamentarian, co-author of Poland's first constitution of May 3, 1791.

She was a member of the Polish underground Home Army from 1941 to 1945, and served in the Polish Army in the West from 1945 to 1947. Demobilized as a Lieutenant in the Signal Corps, she obtained the General Certificate of Education from the University of London and a Diploma in Institutional Management from Lewisham Polytechnic Institute. In 1957, she immigrated to Canada with her husband Jan Kott, a war veteran and community leader. At the age of 40, she went back to school, graduating from the University of Toronto, first with a Bachelor of Arts, then with a Master's degree in sociology. She spent the years 1975 to 1988, working as a teaching assistant at both the University of Toronto and York University while working towards her Ph.D. Her principal areas of interest were multiculturalism, race relations, women's studies, and issues relative to the family and ageing.

Her life in Canada was dedicated to the community. As one of the co-founders of the Polish Canadian Research Institute, she collected archival documentation about the Polish group in Canada. For many consecutive years she served as a Vice-President of the Canadian Polish Congress (CPC) and was instrumental in amending its Statute. Her key role was to direct work of the World Polonia Council, an international network of Polish communities abroad. Always trying to support women, she was Vice-President of the Polish Canadian Women's Federation and Chair of the Standing Committee on Culture and Status of Women. She was a Director of Millennium Foundation and one of the editors of the *Polish Voice* weekly. Through her research, Malachowska contributed to the development of the policy of multiculturalism and to the strengthening of the position of women in Canada. She received a Gold Honorary Award from the Canadian Polish Congress and an Order of Merit from the Polish Government in Exile.



Photos from top left clockwise:  
• Teresa Kott-Malachowska • Representatives of the Canadian Polish Congress at Prime Minister's office in Ottawa • Canadian Polish Women's Federation annual meeting, 1966 • The conference of Free World Polish Women's Federation, 1978  
All photos – private archives