

Dr. Malgorzata (Margaret) P. Bonikowska is a Polish-Canadian journalist, broadcaster, community activist, educator, author, and cultural entrepreneur. In all her work, she has been motivated by the objective of building bridges between her two homelands, Poland and Canada.

Educated in Poland (University of Warsaw) and Great Britain (M.A. with distinction from Lancaster University and pre-doctoral visit at Oxford University), Margaret lectured and did research at the Department of English Studies at the University of Warsaw, where she earned a Ph.D. in linguistics and held the position of Associate Professor.

She came to Canada 26 years ago as an exchange professor. She soon fell in love with her new country and decided to make it her permanent home. Ever since, Margaret has been a proud Canadian, promoting Canadian values around the world through her work as a journalist, cultural ambassador, and Polish TV correspondent.

She is the editor-in-chief of the leading Polish-Canadian newspaper “Gazeta”, which has been operating for 28 years, and since 2003 of its online version (www.gazetagazeta.com). She is also the publisher and associate editor of English-language online magazine promoting Polish culture - Cosmopolitan Review (www.cosmopolitanreview.com).

Treated as an authority on all things Polish in Canada, she has been featured in numerous media interviews, and has accompanied the Canadian Prime Minister’s delegation during his official visit to Poland.

Margaret has hosted and produced her own radio shows and for 10 years she has been a commentator of Radio Bis in Toronto.

Building on her past experience as a radio personality and her fluency in both Polish and English, she and her colleague Tomek Kniat launched POLcast, the first-ever English-language podcast about Poland and Poles around the world. The podcast has quickly become a hit worldwide. POLcast is also broadcast on CJRU 1280 radio in Toronto. AS an innovative global media project it has received two awards.

As a passionate English language teacher and linguist, Margaret has been helping Polish immigrants master the English language, both through her articles in “Gazeta” and her popular book, *Demystifying the English Language* (“Odczarować angielski”, whose second volume is ready for publication). She is still an active English teacher. Prior to her immigration to Canada, she had been an active academic researcher in Poland and the UK; some of her research publications are still cited by linguists around the world.

Margaret is an accomplished public speaker and has been a sought-after bilingual host of concerts, educational and cultural events, film screenings, theatre performances, and educational programs. For six years she was the artistic director and host of the Toronto Polish Film Festival, and has worked with other Canadian organizations to promote Polish film in Canada. She has also organized and hosted numerous public events featuring prominent figures in the fields of film, literature, and the arts.

Throughout her life, Margaret has been deeply motivated by social activism and the importance of helping others. She co-founded the Polish community organization “Polonia for the Future” (Polonia Przyszłości), which for many years organized social, cultural and educational campaigns and events to help children, seniors and people in need. Her journalistic work frequently focuses on topics related to social justice and activism, often resulting in practical help for other people.

Margaret has received numerous medals and awards, both Canadian and Polish, including the prestigious Queen Elizabeth’s Diamond Jubilee Medal, the Knight’s Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland (awarded by the President of the Republic of Poland), the International Order of St. Stanislaus, the Brilliant-Minded Woman Award, the Canadian Ethnic Journalists’ and Writers’ Club 25th Anniversary Award in Journalism, two Awards of the National Ethnic Press and Media Council of Canada (Conseil national de la presse et des medias ethniques du Canada) for “Gazeta” and for POLcast, an Ontario Volunteer Service Award, and a Parkdale-High Park Millennium Achievement Award.

In March 2017 she is travelling to Vienna to accept the “Polish Oscar” – the Golden Owl award in the category of Media.

Margaret is a member of the British Alumni Society, Canadian Journalists for Free Expression and vice-president of the National Ethnic Press and Media Council of Canada (Conseil national de la presse et des medias ethniques du Canada).