

**Dr. Malgorzata (Margaret) P. Bonikowska** is a Polish-Canadian journalist (press, radio, TV), broadcaster, podcast producer, linguist, English teacher, author, educator, and community & human rights activist.



Educated in Poland (University of Warsaw) and Great Britain (M.A. with distinction from Lancaster University and pre-doctoral research 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 in 1990 as an exchange professor. She soon fell in love with her new country and decided to make it her permanent home.

She is the editor-in-chief of the leading Polish-Canadian daily newspaper “Gazeta”, which has been operating since 1988 ([www.gazetagazeta.com](http://www.gazetagazeta.com)).

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

Margaret has hosted and produced her own radio shows, was a commentator of Radio Bis in Toronto for 10 years, “Nasze Radio” in NYC and currently collaborates with "Nasze Radio Canada" in Edmonton and “Radio Polonia” in Montreal.

Building on her past experience as a radio personality, in 2016 she co-created POLcast ([www.mypolcast.com](http://www.mypolcast.com)), the first-ever English-language podcast about Poland and Poles around the world. POLcast quickly became a hit worldwide. As an innovative global media project, it has received four awards - two in Canada, one in Austria and one in Poland.

As a passionate English language teacher and linguist, Margaret ran her private language school MENTOR Language School, then she was the lead teacher at the ESL centre run by the Polish Immigrant Community Services. For years she has been helping immigrants and Poles in other countries master the English language, both through her articles in “Gazeta” and her popular book *Demystifying the English*

*Language* (“Odczarować angielski”, whose volume 2 is forthcoming). She is an active English teacher and does popular language coaching. 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.

Since January 2019 she has been the editor-in-chief of Our Kids Polska (<https://ourkids.net/pl/>), a bilingual education platform on private education in Poland.

Margaret is an accomplished public speaker and 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 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.

Margaret has extensive experience in translation and interpreting as well as in editing texts in Polish.

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 Przyszlosci), which for many years organized social, cultural and educational campaigns and events to help children, seniors and people in need. Her journalism work frequently focuses on topics related to social justice and activism, often resulting in practical help for other people.

She is the president of Democracy Poland Action Committee in Canada (DPACC), a pro-democracy Canadian organization.

She collaborates with Polish weeklies "Przegląd" and "Angora" and is often invited by Polish media as an expert, recently on the topic she has worked on extensively - residential schools in Canada.

Margaret has received numerous medals and awards, both Canadian and Polish: the 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, the National Ethnic Press and Media Council of Canada (Conseil national de la presse et des medias ethniques du Canada) for “Gazeta”, the National Ethnic Press and Media Council of Canada (Conseil national de la presse

et des medias ethniques du Canada) for POLcast, the Canadian Ethnic Media Association's Award (together with Tomek Kniat) for POLcast, the Golden Owl award (the “Polish Oscar”) in the category of Media, Vienna, Austria, the Maciej Plazynski Award, a journalistic award for journalists working for the Polish diaspora, for POLcast, Poland, the Ontario Volunteer Service Award, and the Parkdale-High Park Millennium Achievement Award, Toronto.

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) and well as the prestigious Polish organization of journalists Towarzystwo Dziennikarskie. She is the president of Democracy Poland Action Committee in Canada (DPACC), a pro-democracy Canadian organization.

Since October 2024, she has been a member of the Speaker of the Polish Senate’s Advisory Board.