



Generální konzulát České republiky
Consulate General of the Czech Republic

Vladimír Ruml
Consul General

Toronto, March 12, 2013

Dear Sir or Madam,

It is my pleasure to write a letter in support of the **Advancing Czech Studies** project submitted by the University of Toronto. Czech Studies has a distinguished presence at University of Toronto where Czech language has been taught since 1967. In addition, University of Toronto is the only university in Canada where the study of Czech language, literature and culture can be undertaken from the undergraduate through to the doctoral level. The Czech Studies program is important not only in the context of Canada but in the entire North America as it is ranked among the top three programs on the continent.

I believe that the expanded program with its three pillars - Czech language training, Czech visiting scholars and International opportunities for students - is very well conceived and will ensure promoting not only language skills, but also cultural and economic co-operation and mutual understanding between the Czech Republic and Canada. Institutionally the quality of the program is guaranteed by the Centre for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies and the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures of the University of Toronto.

It is important to mention the personalities of Ms. Georgina Steinsky-Schwartz and Mr. Josef Čermák, both of them successful professionals and distinguished members of the Czech community in Canada, who came up with the initiative. Mr. Josef Čermák was among the founders of the Czech Studies at the University of Toronto in 1967.

I fully support the efforts of Ms. Georgina Steinsky-Schwartz and Mr. Josef Čermák as they seek funding to support the expansion of the program.

Sincerely