

Putin Fires Children's Ombudsman Astakhov

September 09, 2016



Pavel Astakhov **Kremlin Press Service**

Russia's children's ombudsman, Pavel Astakhov, has been dismissed from his post by Russian President Vladimir Putin after months of mounting public pressure.

Astakhov triggered widespread outrage across Russia in June when he asked a young survivor of a boating disaster: “How was your swim?”

The accident at a Karelian summer camp had claimed the lives of 14 children.

Russian media [reported in July](#) that Astakhov was to leave his post after “a brief holiday” when a public petition calling for his resignation gathered more than 150,000 signatures.

He is to be replaced by Anna Kuznetsova, the president of children's charity “Pokrov.”

[Pokrov](#) runs projects in support of families with disabled children, large families, and families who wish to adopt. It also runs an anti-abortion program.

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