

THE PCCC NEWSLETTER

Dear Members of the Chamber,

At the outset, I am delighted and honoured to extend my sincere New Year's greetings to each and every one of you. I would also like to express my gratitude for your active participation at our 2024 events, and thereby in the life of our Polish-Canadian business community.

As we reflect on the past year, we can look back with great satisfaction to note that 2024 was a period of record growth and dynamism for the Polish-Canadian Chamber of Commerce. Over the the past year, we had the privilege of welcoming over 15 new members into our community, significantly expanding our network and further strengthening our presence on the international business scene in Poland.

The second half of 2024 was an especially active period, as we held the rotating Presidency of the International Group of Chambers of Commerce (IGCC). This role allowed us to elevate our visibility in the business community, which is already appreciative of the Canadian contributions to the IGCC over time.

2024 was also a milestone year for the PCCC, as we celebrated the 20th anniversary of our Chamber's founding. Our organization has consistently demonstrated its relevance in fostering bilateral business relations between Canada and Poland, and we look forward to many more successful years ahead!

As we move further into 2025, we are witnessing significant changes in the world, with the promise of many positive developments. We are already seeing significant changes in leadership style and purpose with the inauguration of President Trump in the USA, and look forward to Parliamentary elections in Canada (along with a new Canadian Prime Minister), Presidential elections in Poland, the Polish Presidency in the EU Council, and upcoming elections in a number of other European countries, hopefully all of which will present new opportunities for international cooperation and growth.

We look forward to navigating these developments and changes with all of you, adapting to the evolving landscape, and seizing the opportunities ahead.

Let's embark on this new year together, committed to strengthening the ties between our nations, and enhancing our shared business prospects. We deeply appreciate your role in our community. Your ongoing support and involvement are the driving forces behind our collective success!

Sincerely,

Bernhard L. Otterstein

President

Polish Canadian Chamber of Commerce



Bernhard L. Otterstein
PCCC President

New PCCC Patron Member

GE Hitachi

GE Vernova's nuclear business, GE Hitachi, is an alliance created by GE Vernova and Hitachi to serve the global nuclear industry, and is a world-leading provider of advanced reactors, fuel and nuclear services. An alliance created to serve the global nuclear industry – GEH combines GE's design expertise and history of delivering reactors, fuels, and services globally with Hitachi's proven experience in advanced modular construction to offer customers around the world the technological leadership required to effectively enhance reactor performance, power output, and safety.

GE Hitachi is a planned, purpose-built company on a mission to electrify the planet while simultaneously working to decarbonize it. The company brings together GE's portfolio of energy businesses including Power, Wind, Electrification and Digital businesses. With focus, GE Hitachi is accelerating the path to more reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy, while helping its customers power economies and deliver the electricity that is vital to health, safety, security, and improved quality of life.

GE Hitachi is passionate about leading the global energy transition. Its solutions are not just concepts, they have been designed to reshape the future of energy, making a real impact on the world's journey towards net zero.

Here's a closer look at GE's key focus areas:

- Pioneering small modular reactors (SMRs)
- Upgrading the energy grid
- Reshaping the energy landscape towards the close-to-market technologies like SMRs and carbon capture to attract private investment and support the net-zero grid goal by 2030.
- Addressing the skills gap: GE Hitachi's initiatives designed to inspire and equip the next generation of engineers with the skills needed for successful careers in the evolving energy sector.



New PCCC Patron Member

KKG Legal

KKG Legal is renowned for its firmly established position in the legal field, both in Poland and internationally. With an impressive 28 years of experience, the firm has consistently provided exceptional legal services to Polish and foreign entrepreneurs.

Their outstanding quality is driven by a careful selection of associates with top-tier competencies and global expertise. This ensures that KKG delivers not just legal advice but tailored solutions for their clients' needs.

A hallmark of KKG's practice is its commitment to multilingual support, offering legal services in Polish, English, German, French, Japanese, Spanish, and Portuguese. This aligns perfectly with the Chamber's dedication to fostering global connections and cross-border collaboration.

At the heart of KKG's philosophy lies their guiding principle: Your goals. Our values. Shared successes.

We are confident that their expertise and values will greatly enrich the PCCC community.

The logo for KKG Legal features the lowercase letters 'kkg' in a bold, dark blue, sans-serif font. Below the 'kkg' is the word 'LEGAL' in a smaller, all-caps, dark blue, sans-serif font. The entire logo is centered within a white rectangular box.

kkg
LEGAL

New PCCC Members

JSM Trade & Consultancy

JSM Trade & Consultancy is a 100% Polish private company, for which the long term satisfaction of its clients comes first. This commitment guides the company in advancing a diverse range of business sectors aimed at enriching and bringing convenience to its clients.

Headquartered in Gdynia, a port city located on the Baltic Sea, the company has a convenient geographical location on the natural modern trade gateway to Poland and Eastern Europe. A location in the heart of a one-million inhabitant agglomeration and in the immediate vicinity of several container terminals is supplemented by excellent connections to European hubs. The vicinity of Gdansk Airport also means that JSM has absolutely great trade connectivity.

JSM focuses predominantly on business development in four areas, i.e. Business Consulting, Direct Commercial Cooperation, Business Risk Management and S&P in Real Estate in Poland, in which the company has several decades of practical experience.

While avoiding the temptation for easy gains or acting in haste, JSM emphasizes the values of honesty, prudence, compliance with laws, regulations as well attaching great importance to protecting the global environment.

 **Trade & Consultancy
Ltd.**

New PCCC Members

Victor Energy

Victor Energy is a global power systems contractor that ensures efficiency, stability, and adaptability to local conditions. The company specializes in high-voltage work in challenging climatic environments and has successfully completed numerous projects across the globe.

Victor Energy builds energy infrastructure for a safer future, delivering innovative and impactful electrical construction solutions to the European power sector while leveraging decades of extensive experience in North American super-projects.

Victor Energy's addition to the PCCC brings valuable expertise and an innovative approach to the ever-evolving energy landscape.



New PCCC Members

CAE

CAE is a high-technology company, bringing the digital and physical worlds closer together to create a safer world. In this order CAE equips people in critical roles with expertise and solutions. As a technology company, they digitalize the physical world, deploying software-based simulation training and critical operations support solutions. Above all else, CAE empowers pilots, cabin crew, airlines, and defence and security forces to perform at their best every day and when the stakes are the highest.

Around the globe, the company is everywhere customers need them to be, with more than 13,000 employees in approximately 250 sites and training locations in over 40 countries. CAE represents more than 75 years of industry firsts—the highest-fidelity flight and mission simulators as well as training programs powered by digital technologies.

With the largest civil aviation training network in the world, CAE provides comprehensive training solutions for pilots, cabin crew, maintenance technicians and ground personnel, in commercial, business and helicopter aviation, and the emerging eVTOL market.

From flight simulation training devices to ab initio pilot training and crew sourcing services, CAE's immersive training solutions and experiences help the team build the necessary skills to take safer actions and make better decisions—faster.

CAE also offers operations-management technology solutions to help more efficiently manage flight resourcing and help simplify processes for the crew and staff so that everyone can focus on the critical tasks at hand.



New PCCC Members

Dentons

Dentons is recognised as the the world's largest law firm. It is renowned for its innovative approach to legal services, providing clients with comprehensive support across diverse industries and jurisdictions. With a presence in over 200 locations in more than 80 countries, including Poland and Canada, Dentons combines global expertise with local insights to help businesses navigate complex legal and business challenges.

By joining the PCCC, Dentons aims to foster stronger business relations between Poland and Canada, supporting the Chamber's mission to promote economic cooperation and provide valuable resources to its members.

We look forward to collaborating with Dentons and leveraging their extensive experience to enhance our initiatives and services for PCCC members.

The Dentons logo consists of a purple arrow pointing to the right, with the word "DENTONS" written in white, bold, uppercase letters inside the arrow.

DENTONS

Past Events

PCCC at MSPO Kielce September 3-6



The PCCC, along with its Board Members Bernhard L. Otterstein and George Havaris and member companies, participated in MSPO Kielce 2024, Central and Eastern Europe's largest defence and security expo. The event featured 46 Canadian companies showcasing cutting-edge solutions, with robust participation from international stakeholders, including Poland, Ukraine, and other CEE countries.

In collaboration with the Embassy of Canada to Poland (the lead organizer of the Canadian presence at the MSPO), the PCCC supported numerous high-level discussions and B2B meetings, reinforcing Canada's partnerships in the region. Notably, discussions centered on defence cooperation with Polish companies such as Polska Grupa Zbrojeniowa and WB Group, further strengthening ties and exploring future collaborations.

MSPO 2024 marked a significant opportunity for PCCC and its members to engage with key players, contributing to the ongoing growth of Polish-Canadian business relations in the defence sector.



Past Events

Graduation Ceremony for CEMBA Program September 12



On September 12th, a Graduation Ceremony for the Canadian Executive MBA (CEMBA) was held at the SGH Warsaw School of Economics. The event was hosted by Professor Grażyna Aniszewska-Banaś, Director of the CEMBA Program at SGH, with key addresses from Professor Librowicz, the Canadian Director from UQAM, and Professor Dorota Niedziółka, Vice-Rector for Development at SGH.

Bernhard L. Otterstein, President of the Polish-Canadian Chamber of Commerce, together with Rector Niedziółka, presented diplomas with honors. Erez Boniel was recognized as the “Best Lecturer,” receiving accolades from the graduating class.

The ceremony concluded with a cocktail reception at Bistro Jajko, offering a celebratory moment for all in attendance.



Past Events

Back to Business Mixer September 17



On September 17th, the second edition of the Back to Business Mixer took place, a joint initiative of 11 chambers of the International Group of Chambers of Commerce (IGCC) Poland. The event was co-organized and hosted by the Canadian Executive MBA SGH (CEMBA) programme, which introduced this year's graduates into the networking mixer. The event saw the participation of 150 people representing over 130 companies.

As the first large-scale business meeting after the summer break, the event garnered significant interest, with conversations filling SGH Warsaw School of Economics's spectacular Spadochronowa Hall until late into the evening.

We extend our thanks to Advantage Austria Poland, Belgian Business Chamber, British-Polish Chamber of Commerce, Irish-Polish Chamber of Commerce, Camera di Commercio e dell'Industria Italiana in Polonia, Poland-Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce, Netherlands-Polish Chamber of Commerce, Polish-Romanian Bilateral Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Polish-Spanish Chamber of Commerce and Canadian Executive MBA for their co-organization and all participants for their attendance and engaging discussions.

Past Events

Canadian Nuclear Energy Leadership Conference September 23



On September 23, the PCCC Board, represented by President Bernhard Otterstein and Vice-President Areta Kempieńska took part in the Canadian Nuclear Energy Leadership Conference organized by the Canadian Embassy in Poland and OCNI.

The Canadian delegation and 27 Polish companies took part in the conference and fruitful B2B meetings, insightful presentations, and plans for the development of nuclear and SMR reactors in Poland.

Participants had the opportunity to hear a comprehensive presentation from Paweł Pytlarczyk of the Ministry of Energy, outlining Poland's plans for nuclear energy projects. One key insight shared was the high level of public support for nuclear energy in Poland, currently at almost 80%. By comparison, Canada's support for similar projects stands at around 50%, which is still considered significant.

This event reinforced the importance of nuclear energy as a sustainable and strategic solution for the future of both Poland and Canada, as well as strengthened Polish-Canadian commercial ties in the area of energy diversification.

Past Events

Welcome Korea International Trade Association (KITA) in Warsaw September 26



On September 26, Bernhard L. Otterstein, President and George Havaris, Treasurer of the Polish Canadian Chamber of Commerce, participated in the Opening Ceremony of the Korea International Trade Association (KITA) Warsaw Center, representing both the Chamber and the International Group of Chambers of Commerce (IGCC) during the Canadian Presidency. The event was held at the Warsaw Presidential Hotel, with an excellent opportunity for networking.

The newly established KITA Warsaw Center aims to enhance Korea-Poland economic cooperation and provide essential support to Korean companies looking to expand into Poland and beyond into Europe. The Center will serve as a vital hub for businesses, facilitating both SME market entry and investment expansion by larger corporations. It will also promote the formation of the Korea Business Chamber to further represent the interests of Korean companies in Central and Eastern Europe.

We are proud to be part of this important initiative, fostering stronger economic ties between Korea, Poland, Canada and the broader European region.

Past Events

Sustainable Cities Trade & Investment Mission September 30-October 4



The PCCC had a privilege to support and take part in the Sustainable Cities Trade & Investment Mission organised by Trade Commissioner Service, Embassy of Canada in Warsaw, Instytut Innowacji i Odpowiedzialnego Rozwoju INNOWO, as well as the Canadian Polish Business Association.

First day of the mission, during the briefing for Canadian companies, Bernhard Otterstein, President of the PCCC gave a presentation on specifics of Polish business culture, while the second day during the Conference and Networking Lunch the chamber was represented by Board Members Areta Kempieńska – Vice-President, George Havaris – Treasurer, and Hubert Durlík. The second day of the conference was opened by Her Excellency, Ambassador Catherine Godin.

The main theme of the mission was sustainable urban transformations, smart cities technologies, their financing, including the National Recovery Plan as an instrument for the green transformation.

Participants listened also to insightful presentations of 3 Ukrainian Cities: Poltava, Kyiv and Ivano-Frankivsk.

Past Events

North American Networking Night October 3



On October 3rd, the PCCC participated in the North American Networking Night organized by Rzeszów City. It is the second edition of event bringing together American and Canadian businesses in a fantastic setting. This event, also served as the closing highlight of the Sustainable Cities Trade & Investment Mission, where Canadian Smart City companies connected with Polish partners on innovative, sustainable green solutions.

The evening was officially opened by Konrad Fijołek, President of the City of Rzeszów, H.E Catherine Godin, Ambassador of Canada, and Erin Nickerson, the U.S. Consul General from Kraków. On behalf of the Polish-Canadian Chamber of Commerce (PCCC), George Havaris, Treasurer and Board Member, delivered remarks.

The Chamber was well represented with over a dozen members attending, all recognizing Rzeszów's strategic importance in business growth and its leading role in the reconstruction of Ukraine.

Past Events

Nuclear Inter Jura Congress

November 3-7



This was the 25th edition of the International Nuclear Law Association (INLA) congress, held in Poland for the first time, in cooperation with DISE ENERGY. Areta Kempieńska, Vice-President of the Polish Canadian Chamber of Commerce, attended Nuclear Inter Jura 2024.

The Nuclear Inter Jura Congress addressed key topics concerning nuclear energy development, including the strategy for Poland's Nuclear Program and international regulations supporting advanced nuclear technologies.

The Congress was an excellent opportunity for discussions and networking with professionals dedicated to nuclear energy advancement and the clean energy transition.



Past Events

International Speed Business Mixer

November 7



Polish Canadian Chamber of Commerce (PCCC) proudly co-hosted the International Speed Business Mixer (ISBM), uniting 14 chambers from the International Group of Chambers of Commerce (IGCC) Poland. As the current IGCC presidency holder, the PCCC was honored to MC the event, with Bernhard L. Otterstein, President of PCCC, delivering opening remarks on the importance of partnerships in today's business landscape.

The PCCC was well represented by President Bernhard Otterstein, Vice-President Areta Kempieńska, Vice-President Andrzej Siess, Treasurer George Havaris and over ten PCCC Member company representatives, underscoring our commitment to fostering strategic partnerships and supporting Polish and Canadian businesses internationally.

Representatives from Advantage Austria Poland, AHK Polska, Belgian Business Chamber, British Polish Chamber of Commerce, Francusko-Polska Izba Gospodarcza (CCIFP), Scandinavian-Polish Chamber of Commerce, Netherlands-Polish Chamber of Commerce, Polish Spanish Chamber of Commerce, Polish Portuguese Chamber of Commerce, Polish-Swiss Chamber of Commerce, Camera di Commercio e dell'Industria Italiana in Polonia, Irish Polish Chamber of Commerce contributed to the success of this networking event.

A special thank you to our Gold Sponsors for their vital support: Ayvens Detable Sp. z o.o., PKO Bank Polski and Strategic Management Partners. We are also grateful to our Silver Sponsors: Goba Dynamic Management, PODPISANO – kwalifikowane podpisy elektroniczne.pl, and Portugalia Gourmet for their support, including a Portuguese wine tasting experience.



Past Events

Rebuild Ukraine Exhibition & Conference November 12-14



Polish Canadian Chamber of Commerce represented by PCCC's President Bernhard L. Otterstein, Vice-President Areta Kempieńska, Secretary Paul Fogo and Treasurer George Havaris is proud to have participated in the 4th International ReBuild Ukraine Exhibition and Conference—focused on construction and energy—held from November 13-14 in Warsaw. The event united leaders from Ukraine, governmental representatives, and international stakeholders to explore pathways for Ukraine's reconstruction.

During the three days event, Canadian companies and experts were updated by representatives of the Government of Canada on the current situation in Ukraine and how best to support the country's recovery.

PCCC members engaged in meaningful conversations and formed connections with partners from Canada, Ukraine, the United States, and the rest of Europe.

The Canadian pavilion organised by Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), Global Affairs Canada, Export Development Canada, and the Embassy of Canada | Ambassade du Canada to Poland was visited by Ontario's Minister of Energy and Electrification Stephen Lecce and MPP Rudy Cuzzetto.

In conjunction with the exhibition and conference, PCCC President Bernhard L. Otterstein witnessed the signing of the Preliminary Safety Analysis Report between Laurentis Energy Partners and ORLEN Synthos Green Energy. This agreement supports the preparation and deployment of GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy's BWRX-300 SMRs in Poland.



Past Events

Christmas Luncheon & PCCC 20th Anniversary December 9



The PCCC had the pleasure of hosting its annual Christmas Luncheon at the Canadian Embassy, graced by the presence of Her Excellency, Ambassador Catherine Godin. The event gathered a remarkable number of PCCC members, led by the PCCC Board of Directors, as well as representatives from partner business chambers.

New PCCC members also had the opportunity to introduce themselves to the Chamber members and friends. This year has been a record-breaking one for new memberships, with 15 new members joining the Polish- Canadian community!

The event also featured a special touch of jubilation, as the PCCC celebrated its 20th Anniversary!

Over traditional holiday delicacies and fine wine, event attendees shared warm wishes for success in both personal lives and continued fruitful business collaboration in the year to come.

Past Events

Gwiazdkowy Business Mixer in Katowice December 17

December 17th, Katowice hosted the much-anticipated Christmas Business Mixer, co-organized by PCCC Board Member and Vice-President Andrzej Siess and 11 Chambers of Commerce under the patronage of the Mayor of Katowice. The event also received invaluable support from the Katowice Special Economic Zone and the Lewiatan Confederation.

With a vibrant holiday atmosphere, the event marked yet another successful edition, growing in popularity every year. This time, we welcomed over 250 participants, ensuring an evening filled with lively discussions and networking opportunities.

The beautiful setting and festive mood would not have been possible without the generous support of our sponsors, including PKO Bank Polski and Maple Bear, which continues to grow its outstanding school and kindergarten in Katowice.



Past Events

New Year International Business Mixer in Łódź January 16, 2025

We kicked off 2025 in style with the 5th New Year's Reception hosted at the iconic Przystanek mBank S.A. in Łódź! Over 200 participants—members of several International Group of Chambers of Commerce (IGCC) Poland partners, and sponsors—came together for an evening of networking and collaboration. The event was held under the patronage of the Mayor of Invest in Lodz, with an inspiring speech by Vice-Mayor Dr. Adam Wieczorek and Andrej Siess, PCCC Board Member and Vice-President as the MC.

A feature of the evening was the IGCC Presidency handover from the Polish-Canadian Chamber of Commerce to the Polish-Romanian Chamber of Commerce. We wish the new Presidency great success in the year ahead!

Thank you to all the participating chambers for creating such a dynamic international environment: Belgian Business Chamber, British-Polish Chamber of Commerce, Polish-Hungarian Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise Ireland, Camera di Commercio e dell' Industria Italiana in Polonia, Netherlands-Polish Chamber of Commerce, Polish-Romanian Bilateral Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Scandinavian-Polish Chamber of Commerce, Polish-Swiss Chamber of Commerce and Polsko-Ukraińska Izba Gospodarcza, along with the Business Centre Club.

Special thanks to our Partners: Invest in Lodz (Central Poland), Konfederacja Lewiatan, LODZistics Logistyczna Sieć Biznesowa Polski Centralnej, Lodz Special Economic Zone, Łódzki Klaster ICT, Politechnika Łódzka, and Polish Investment and Trade Agency (PAIH). Grateful to our Sponsors for their support: Ahoy Career, Łukasiewicz - Warszawski Instytut Technologiczny, MCKB S.A., mBank S.A., Raben Group, St.Nicolaus Distillery and Winnice Słowackie.



Upcoming Events

*PCCC Spring Reception
March 12, 2025*



*Saint Patrick's Day Business Mixer
March 13, 2025*



Upcoming Events

Journee Francophone

March 20, 2025



International Speed Business Mixer Gdańsk

April 15, 2025



PCCC Patron Members:



Contact us!

If you have any news or successes that you would like to share with the PCCC community, do not hesitate to contact us!

Please contact:

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Join us and follow !

