

THE PCCC NEWSLETTER

Dear Members of the Chamber,

The first eight months or so of this year have been exceptionally intense and dynamic for our Chamber — a pace that is clearly reflected in the 11+ new members who have joined our community during this period. In this edition of the newsletter, we are pleased to introduce them to you in more detail.

Over the past eight months, the PCCC has been actively involved in nearly 20 events across a variety of formats — as an organizer, co-organizer, panelist, or participant — all with the goal of building meaningful, valuable relationships. You'll find a comprehensive summary of many of these initiatives on the pages that follow.

All of this activity has unfolded against the backdrop of a turbulent global political climate and the accompanying volatile economic landscape — developments that affect us all — and which I've had the opportunity to comment on quite regularly as a guest on TVP World, as well as for the Warsaw Business Journal.

A brief summary and the links to my commentary on these important global developments can be found in this newsletter.

The Polish Canadian Chamber of Commerce also had the privilege of co-writing the *Challenges and Successes for Canadian Investors Report* in collaboration with the Embassy of Canada to Poland. This report offers insights into the Polish investment landscape from a Canadian perspective, both highlighting the achievements of Canadian companies to date as well as providing guidance for future investors. On the pages below you will find an executive summary of the report and a link to the full document.

Another key highlight from recent months was our Annual General Meeting (AGM), during which the PCCC elected its leadership for the coming two years. I am truly honoured to have been re-elected as President, and would like to express my sincere thanks for your continued trust and support. Details from the AGM, its key decisions, and a full roster of PCCC officers can also be found in this edition of the *PCCC Newsletter*.

Finally, I encourage you to explore the upcoming event proposals for autumn and winter. We hope to see strong participation from all of you, as we continue to develop and strengthen our network of very influential, leading companies and the people that make them so exceptional.

Sincerely,

Bernhard L. Otterstein

President

Polish Canadian Chamber of Commerce



Bernhard L. Otterstein
PCCC President

New PCCC Patron Member



With over 40 years of experience, SILTEC is a trusted name in providing high-quality products and services both in Poland and internationally. Their expertise spans across:

- Equipment for the protection of classified and sensitive information
- Low- and high-power generator sets
- Cutting-edge special solutions and prototypes for military, security units, and state institutions

Based in Pruszków near Warsaw, SILTEC combines construction and commercial offices, production, and service spaces under one roof. The company employs around 150 professionals and maintains a strong network of partners, allowing for a comprehensive product portfolio of in-house innovations and renowned suppliers' equipment.

SILTEC holds numerous accreditations and certifications, including:

- ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015, WSK, and NATO AQAP 2110:2016
- First-degree Industrial Security Certificates (SECRET, NATO SECRET, EU SECRET)
- Ministry of the Interior concession for the manufacture and trade of explosives, weapons, ammunition, and specialized technologies

Over the years, SILTEC has earned prestigious awards such as the Golden Laurels and the Defender at the International Defence Industry Exhibition in Kielce.

Their main clients include the Polish Armed Forces, NATO, EU institutions, state services, banks, telecom operators, and healthcare providers—making SILTEC a key player in both the public and private sectors.

We are excited to have SILTEC on board and look forward to their valuable contribution to the Polish-Canadian business community!



New PCCC Patron Member

The logo for Fieldfisher, featuring the word "fieldfisher" in a lowercase, sans-serif font. The "field" part is in a dark blue color, and the "fisher" part is in a lighter blue color.

Fieldfisher is a European law firm known for its strong people-centric culture. It offers full-service legal support with market-leading practices in sectors such as technology, financial services, energy and natural resources, and life sciences.

Recognised for its entrepreneurial spirit, pragmatic approach, and social responsibility, Fieldfisher positions itself as a trusted, client-oriented corporate citizen. Embracing the philosophy that The Future is Human, the firm collaborates closely with clients, tailoring services to individual needs and integrating innovative legal technologies where beneficial.

Fieldfisher's European presence is bolstered by offices in the United States and China, along with a network of international partner firms. This enables the firm to deliver legal advice globally with seamless efficiency and commitment across time zones and legal disciplines.

The firm advises many of the world's largest organisations and actively supports numerous charitable initiatives. In the area of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG), Fieldfisher is regarded as an industry leader, setting high standards and holding itself accountable to both clients and employees.

In the UK, Fieldfisher also operates prominent practices in personal injury, medical negligence, and asbestos disease claims.

Clients consistently choose Fieldfisher for its ability to deliver innovative, effective legal solutions backed by deep expertise and a strong commitment to client care—on time and within budget.

Fieldfisher is ranked among the Times Top 20 Law Firms and has been highly commended in the Financial Times Innovative Lawyers rankings in Europe. The firm frequently receives industry recognition and award nominations in areas such as dispute resolution, M&A, and intellectual property. Many of its lawyers are listed among top professionals in leading legal directories, and the firm holds top-tier rankings in several key practice areas.

The Fieldfisher network comprises over 2,200 professionals across 27 international offices in 14 countries. Its offices are located in: Amsterdam, Barcelona, Beijing, Belfast, Berlin, Birmingham, Bologna, Brussels, Dublin, Düsseldorf, Frankfurt, Guangzhou, Hamburg, Kraków, Lisbon, London, Luxembourg, Madrid, Manchester, Milan, Munich, Paris, Porto, Shanghai, Vienna, Warsaw, and Silicon Valley.



New PCCC Members



Galvion is a global leader in designing, developing, and delivering mission-critical head protection solutions, intelligent power and data management systems, and advanced integrated soldier systems for military and tactical teams. With a strong focus on performance, survivability, and adaptability to modern battlefield demands, Galvion goes beyond passive protection, integrating cutting-edge technology to enhance operational effectiveness.

With accredited facilities in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom, Galvion has recently expanded its global footprint by establishing a European Hub in Gdańsk, Poland. This strategic move underscores the company's commitment to regional operations and better serving its global partners, including major helmet program contracts across Europe.

Since its founding in 2002, Galvion has remained dedicated to delivering innovative solutions for those who protect us. With a team of over 450 employees, the company continues to push the boundaries of technology and innovation in the defense sector.

We are excited to have Galvion as part of our Chamber and look forward to supporting its growth and collaboration within the Polish-Canadian business community.



New PCCC Members



Kalinauskas is a professional translation agency offering high-quality specialized and sworn translation services in a variety of industries, including law, finance, technology, and medicine. With extensive experience and a team of highly qualified linguists, the company ensures precision, confidentiality, and linguistic excellence in every project.

The agency provides translations in over 50 languages, helping businesses navigate international markets with accuracy and efficiency. Whether it's legal contracts, technical documentation, or business communication, Kalinauskas supports clients with tailored linguistic solutions.

We look forward to collaborating with Kalinauskas Translation Office and supporting their business development within our network!

New PCCC Members

The logo for Move One is centered within a large red square. It consists of the word "MOVE" in a white, serif, all-caps font, followed by the word "ONE" in a red, serif, all-caps font. The word "ONE" is enclosed within a white rounded rectangular box.

For over 25 years, Move One has been the go-to partner in Poland for corporate moving, immigration, and relocation, as well as complex defence logistics projects. They understand that speed and precision are critical—whether supporting the global expatriate workforce or managing essential documents and permits to keep operations running smoothly.

Beyond Poland, Move One provides seamless global mobility solutions for Polish and international staff on short- or long-term assignments, offering the flexibility and predictability needed to manage a dynamic workforce.

Their Government Logistics Group, with over 30 years of expertise, supports mission-critical logistics for Polish, European, and Ukrainian bases. From drones to critical supplies, they have the experience to handle dual-use and military-spec transport.

The company thrives on solving complex challenges —let them know how they can support your needs!

The PCCC looks forward to collaborating with Move One and supporting their mission to help businesses and individuals navigate the challenges of relocation and logistics.

Welcome to the Chamber, Move One!

New PCCC Members

CLYDE & Co

Successful risk navigation

With a team of over 5,500 professionals operating from nearly 70 offices and associated locations around the world, Clyde & Co has built a reputation for delivering exceptional legal services to businesses at the heart of global trade and commerce. For nearly a century, the firm has provided expertise across disputes, regulatory, and transactional matters, helping clients navigate complex legal and commercial landscapes.

Rooted in its four core values, Clyde & Co is known for offering commercially-minded legal advice, client-focused services, and forward-thinking technological solutions. The firm is equally committed to being a responsible business—actively working to minimize environmental impact, foster diversity and inclusion, and positively contribute to the communities it serves.

Each year, Clyde & Co consults hundreds of senior executives and legal professionals across industries to assess the global risk landscape. Their insights identify key challenges—including economic, geopolitical, regulatory, climate, people, and technology risks—enabling the firm to deliver strategic guidance where it's needed most.

We are thrilled to have Clyde & Co join the Chamber and look forward to the expertise and global perspective they will bring to our network.

Welcome aboard, Clyde & Co!



New PCCC Members



Play is one of the most modern and dynamic telecommunications networks in Poland, offering high-speed internet, mobile services, TV, and tailored business solutions. Since entering the Polish market in 2007 as the fourth mobile operator, Play has rapidly gained the trust of customers by providing innovative and breakthrough services at competitive prices — becoming today's industry leader.

With 13 million mobile customers and 2 million home service subscribers, including broadband and TV, Play continues to set the direction for digital service development in Poland. Half of the country's largest companies already trust Play as their telecom partner.

The company operates over 12,000 base stations, covering nearly 100% of Poland's population with mobile services. Its fast-growing fiber-optic network is reaching millions of households, aiming to cover over 7 million homes.

Play's remarkable growth story is a powerful example of successful organic business development. In 2023, the Group opened a new chapter by acquiring UPC Polska, further strengthening its market position. Today, all services are delivered under the Play brand, which is part of the Iliad Group, a fast-expanding European telecom leader based in Paris.

With over 4,000 employees, Play is also a top workplace for professionals in telecom network development, IT, digital services, sales, customer care, marketing, and more — united by a shared passion and strong values.

We're proud to have such a forward-thinking and innovative company join our network! Welcome to Play – we look forward to building great things together!



New PCCC Members



For over 20 years, JDP has been successfully advising multinational corporations and Polish businesses — leaders in their respective sectors. Combining experience, efficiency, and top-quality legal services with flexible fee models, JDP has earned the trust of top companies and numerous recognitions in both international and Polish legal rankings.

Their expertise spans across infrastructure, real estate, transport, construction, commerce, production, services, banking, and investment sectors. JDP supports clients in their daily operations as well as major strategic projects.

With strong ties to renowned foreign law firms, particularly in German-speaking countries, JDP also coordinates and delivers complex projects throughout Europe.

We are proud to have such an outstanding partner join our community and look forward to great cooperation!

Welcome to PCCC, JDP Drapała & Partners!



New PCCC Members



RP Europe specializes in the production of machinery, complete technological lines, and the comprehensive automation of enterprises and technological processes. With years of experience and a modern technical infrastructure, the company delivers innovative, tailor-made solutions for clients across a wide range of industries.

What sets RP Europe apart is their commitment to quality, reliability, and engineering excellence. From design and production to implementation and after-sales service, every project is carried out with precision and professionalism.

Backed by a team of passionate and highly qualified engineers, RP Europe enhances the efficiency and competitiveness of its partners. By combining cutting-edge technology with a truly customer-oriented approach, the company is a trusted name in industrial automation and production technologies.

We are proud to have RP Europe as part of our business community and look forward to supporting their growth and networking efforts within the PCCC network.



New PCCC Members



L3HARRIS
FAST. FORWARD.

We are pleased to welcome L3Harris Technologies as a new member of the Polish Canadian Chamber of Commerce!

L3Harris is recognized as the Trusted Disruptor in the defense industry. With over a century of innovation, the company continues to deliver forward-looking, end-to-end technology solutions that connect the space, air, land, sea, and cyber domains — always with national security at the core.

In a fast-moving and increasingly complex world, L3Harris anticipates challenges and responds with agile, innovative technologies that create a safer and more secure future. Their mission is clear: to relentlessly innovate and deliver capabilities with the speed, passion, and determination that customers demand for their most critical operations.

From defense to commercial and civil industries, L3Harris provides trusted solutions that anticipate and mitigate risk across all domains.

We are excited to have L3Harris join our Chamber and look forward to the collaboration ahead!



New PCCC Members



We are delighted to welcome SOTI as a new member of the Polish Canadian Chamber of Commerce!

SOTI is a global leader in enterprise software solutions, going far beyond traditional MDM/EMM/UEM. SOTI is a proven innovator and industry leader for simplifying business mobility solutions by making them smarter, faster and more reliable.

SOTI helps businesses around the world take mobility to endless possibilities. For over 25 years, companies around the world have trusted SOTI to maximize the value of their mobile operations. Recognized as both an industry pioneer and innovator, SOTI continues to shape the future of mobile management and beyond.

With the SOTI ONE Platform, businesses can optimize the use of smartphones, tablets, wearables, cameras, POS terminals, kiosks, scanners, and more. The platform also empowers organizations to rapidly build mobile apps that replace paper-based processes and to manage enterprise-grade printers with ease.

We look forward to working together and seeing the impact SOTI will bring to our Chamber and business community. Welcome aboard!

Past Events

PCCC at the Diplomatic Opening of the Year_February 6, 2025



10th Diplomatic Opening of the Year, organized by the Polish Chamber of Commerce (KIG) provided a unique platform for discussions on key challenges and opportunities for Poland's economy, as well as ways to support Polish businesses in expanding into international markets.

This prestigious event gathered representatives of state authorities, local governments, the diplomatic corps, business leaders, and institutions to foster collaboration and strengthen the internationalization of the Polish economy.

This year's edition was particularly significant as it marked:

- The 10th anniversary of the event
- The first such gathering during Poland's EU Presidency
- The 35th anniversary of the Polish Chamber of Commerce

New Year's Meeting of the Polish-Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce February 19, 2025

The New Year's Meeting of the Polish-Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce (PUIG) was held on 19 February 2025 at the Regent Warsaw Hotel.

The event, attended by Bernhard L. Otterstein, PCCC President, provided an excellent opportunity to discuss PUIG's open application to join the International Group of Chambers of Commerce (IGCC) in Poland and strengthen international business ties.



Past Events

Spring Reception *Strengthening Security and Bilateral Cooperation* March 12



On March 12, the Polish Canadian Chamber of Commerce and the Embassy of Canada in Poland jointly hosted this year's Spring Reception at the Canadian Embassy in Warsaw. The event, held under the theme of Security, gathered numerous Chamber members, friends of the Embassy, and distinguished guests, including representatives from Polish and Canadian security and defense sectors.

In her welcome address, Ambassador Catherine Godin emphasized the deepening bilateral cooperation between Poland and Canada in the areas of defense and security. She highlighted the strong partnership between the two nations as trusted NATO allies, standing in solidarity in the face of global challenges.

Poland's Secretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Andrzej Szejna, also spoke about the strategic importance of the Polish-Canadian partnership, reaffirming the shared commitment to maintaining security and stability.

Bernhard Otterstein, President of the PCCC, expressed his gratitude to the event's sponsors, whose generous support made the evening possible. **The Gold Sponsors** of the reception were **CGI Polska**, **Galvion** and **KKG Legal**, while the **Bronze Sponsors** included **Genetec**, **Jakubaszek & Wspólnicy**, **MCKB**, and **Pratt & Whitney Kalisz**.

Throughout the evening, guests enjoyed engaging discussions, networking opportunities, and a selection of fine Canadian wines and Polish Perła beer. The event once again reinforced the strong ties between Poland and Canada, highlighting the shared values and growing collaboration between the two nations.

Past Events

Strengthening Canada-Poland Cooperation in Nuclear Energy

Saskatchewan Roundtable_March 12



On March 12, a Business Roundtable was jointly organized by the Polish Canadian Chamber of Commerce, the Representative Office of the Canadian Province of Saskatchewan and CGI Polska.

The event aimed to showcase Saskatchewan's economic potential, largely stemming from its abundant rare earth metals. As a leading global supplier of potash, uranium, base metals, helium, REEs and many other critical minerals, Saskatchewan not only extracts these elements but also engages in advanced technological processing.

The roundtable successfully attracted key Polish companies and institutions from industries that utilize these rare metals, fostering discussions on potential collaborations and investments.

Meeting with Saskatchewan delegation_May 21

Saskatchewan's Minister of Crown Investments Corporation (CIC) and Minister Responsible for SaskPower Jeremy Harrison – who was leading a delegation to Poland to attend the World Nuclear Supply Chain Conference – met on May 21 in Warsaw for a mutual consultation with PCCC President Bernhard L. Otterstein.

Topics of discussion centred around Saskatchewan's role as a key supplier of fuel to the international nuclear industry, its contributions towards best practices in the industry in cooperation with various global programs developing and operating the latest nuclear-related technologies, as well as Saskatchewan's unique advantages in enhancing energy security around the world.

Canada and Poland share a strong strategic and economic partnership, and mutual cooperation in the further development of safe, economically-viable nuclear technologies and facilities is becoming one of the focal points of the bilateral economic relationship, which the Polish Canadian Chamber of Commerce is active in furthering.



Past Events

St. Patrick's Day Business Mixer co-hosted by PCCC March 13



On March 13, the PCCC had the pleasure of co-organizing the St. Patrick's Day Business Mixer at Hotel Verte, Warsaw, Autograph Collection, in partnership with the American Chamber of Commerce in Poland, British Polish Chamber of Commerce, Irish Polish Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise Ireland.

The evening began with welcome speeches from our distinguished guests, including Ambassador Patrick Haughey, the Ambassador of Ireland to Poland. Representatives of the organizing Chambers of Commerce, including Bernhard L. Otterstein, President of the Polish Canadian Chamber of Commerce, had also the pleasure of welcoming the numerous guests in attendance.

The event lasted until late into the evening, as the numerous conversations showed no signs of ending. The festive atmosphere was elevated by a spectacular performance of an Irish band and traditional Irish dancers, bringing the true spirit of St. Patrick's Day to life. To close the evening, attendees took part in an exciting raffle with fantastic prizes.

A huge thank you to our generous sponsors—**Tullamore Dew, Guinness, Słowackie Wina & St. Nicolaus Group a.s., MCKB S.A., British Primary School of Wilanów, PepsiCo, Casinos Poland, Forever Living Products, Mary Kay Global, Ahoy Career, Hotel Verte, Bank Pekao S.A., and Raben Group**—for making this event possible!



Past Events

Celebrating Journée Internationale de la Francophonie March 20



On March 20, we had the pleasure of celebrating Journée Internationale de la Francophonie!

As every year, we gathered with our partners from the Belgian Business Chamber (BBC), CCI France Pologne / Francusko-Polska Izba Gospodarcza (CCIFP), Luxembourg-Poland Chamber of Commerce, Polish-Swiss Chamber of Commerce, Polish-Romanian Bilateral Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Association RFE Pologne to connect with those for whom the French language plays an important role both personally and professionally. And it turns out – we are quite a big community!

In the charming atmosphere of l'emotion bistro, surrounded by exquisite French cuisine and Belgian beer, we enjoyed an evening filled with great conversations and shared experiences.

International Speed Business Mixer in Gdańsk_April 15

Connections, Collaboration, and a View to Remember – What an International Speed Business Mixer in Gdańsk!

A warm thank you to all the guests, partners, and co-organizers – IGCC Chambers, who made the event an unforgettable experience. Your enthusiasm, openness, and drive for meaningful business dialogue brought incredible energy to the 34th floor of Olivia Star.

With over 140 business leaders in one room, the evening was filled with dynamic networking sessions and exciting new connections. The PCCC is proud to be part of such a vibrant, international business community.

Gdańsk has once again inspired us – and we're energized for what's ahead!



Past Events

PCCC at Defence24 Days *Shaping Security Together* May 6-7



Polish Canadian Chamber of Commerce was proudly represented at the 7th edition of Defence24 Days by PCCC Vice President Areta Kempieńska and our members Galvion, Siltec Sp. z o.o. and BIRETA Professional Translations.

This prestigious event provides a unique opportunity to explore the key priorities in military modernization, international cooperation, and the strategic challenges shaping the future security of Poland and Europe.

This forum brings together top decision-makers and defense sector leaders from around the world to engage in meaningful dialogue on national security, cutting-edge defense technologies, and pressing geopolitical realities.

A special highlight from Day 2: a powerful panel discussion on "The New Transatlantic Reality: How Allied States Are Positioning Themselves During the Crisis", featuring Her Excellency Catherine Godin, Ambassador of Canada to Poland

Past Events

PCCC at Aerospace & Defence Meetings Central Europe in Rzeszów_May 14



On May 14, PCCC Vice-President Areta Kempieńska and Executive Director Katarzyna Stachowicz-Rudzińska represented the Chamber alongside Canadian companies like Pratt & Whitney Rzeszów, Netur Inc., AV&R Global and Équipement d'essai Aérospatial CEL at a high-level international gathering under the title of Aerospace & Defence Meetings Central Europe in Rzeszów hosted at the ZEN.COM expo facility.

The day was filled with:

- Productive pre-arranged B2B meetings
- Engaging conference sessions and workshops
- Inspiring discussions with global aerospace & defense leaders
- Numerous meetings with stakeholders from the aviation ecosystem, including with Władysław Ortyl, Marshal of the Podkarpackie Voivodeship, Konrad Fijołek Mayor of Rzeszów City, Marek Darecki President and Marek Bujny, Vice President of the Aviation Valley | Dolina Lotnicza, Michał Pilecki, Director of the POLSA Polska Agencja Kosmiczna | Polish Space Agency Branch in Rzeszów.

It's clear that Central Europe — and Poland in particular — is becoming an increasingly important hub for aerospace and defence collaboration.



Past Events

Spring Social_May 15



On May 15 afternoon, members and friends of Polish Canadian Chamber of Commerce had the pleasure of gathering at the Embassy of Canada for our Spring Social — a casual afternoon meeting where the Polish-Canadian community came together after work to relax, reconnect, and enjoy each other's company in a friendly atmosphere.

The event was made even more special thanks to a Raffle with prizes generously donated by our amazing members: **ARPI Accounting, BIRETA Professional Translations, Move One, PLAY** and **Victor Energy**. Conversations flowed effortlessly over good drinks and Canadian snacks, reminding us how valuable these moments of connection are.

A big thank you to everyone who joined us — and while spring is still treating us a bit harshly, this warm evening gave us a glimpse of the season's spirit!

Strengthening Trade Ties: PCCC meets with ACOA and OECD May 20

PCCC President Bernhard L. Otterstein and Vice-President Areta Kempinska met with representatives of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) and Canada's Mission to the OECD in Paris yesterday in Warsaw, for a briefing regarding bilateral trade and investment opportunities between Poland and Canada, with a focus on the Atlantic Canadian Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland-Labrador.

Economic sectors of particular mutual interest included energy, defence, shipbuilding and agriculture. The meeting also reviewed various forms of business development initiatives and pro-economic growth policies in Poland to brief the visiting delegation from Canada about how Poland has been such an economic success story within the EU over the past several decades.



Past Events

Driving the Energy Transition – Insights from the Green Energy Business Mixer in Łódź_May 29



During the presentation, the President of the Polish Canadian Chamber of Commerce, Bernhard Otterstein participated in one of the key discussion panels focused on the energy transformation of the Łódź Voivodeship.

As the global demand for energy from new technologies and renewable sources continues to grow, events like this are essential for fostering dialogue and building partnerships and it was especially valuable in the context of Polish-Canadian cooperation in the field of energy transition and the underlying technologies to make this happen.

Green Energy Holding, the Canadian-based event organizer, together with its local partners, presented a comprehensive package of energy services: energy consulting, regional development strategies for energy transformation, implementation of major renewable energy installations, and financing of green energy investments.

Krakowski Business Mixer_June 11

The PCCC had the great pleasure of co-hosting one of the most dynamic international networking events in southern Poland — the IGCC Krakowski Business Mixer, held at the Radisson Park Inn Hotel in Kraków.

This edition brought together representatives from 16 bilateral chambers of commerce, in collaboration with the Konfederacja Lewiatan under the honorary patronage of the Mayor of Kraków and the Marshal of the Małopolskie Region.

The event welcomed over 230 participants interested in building and strengthening international business relations and we are proud to see this initiative grow every year, both in terms of reach and impact.

A heartfelt thank you to PCCC Board Member Andrzej Siess for his organizational lead on this event and for being the MC, as well as to the generous sponsors:

- **Lexus** – the luxury automotive brand
- **TIGGES Law Firm**
- **Maple Bear Global Schools Ltd.** – an international network of Canadian curriculum-based schools



Past Events

Canada Day Celebration at the Embassy of Canada June 26

The Polish Canadian Chamber of Commerce had the distinct pleasure of co-organizing a very special Canada Day celebration at the Embassy of Canada in Warsaw. The event took the unique form of a pancake breakfast, held in the charming and welcoming surroundings of the Embassy gardens.

Guests were warmly welcomed by Her Excellency Ambassador Catherine Godin, who emphasized the growing importance of Canada as a trusted ally and economic partner to Poland. This message was further echoed by Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland, Henryka Mościcka-Dendys, who spoke about the significance of strong Polish-Canadian relations.

The event brought together members of the diplomatic corps, PCCC members, and friends of both nations in a relaxed and joyful atmosphere. Conversations flowed over coffee and pancakes, accompanied by live music performed by the Polish Army Orchestra, adding to the festive morning ambiance.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to our generous sponsors, whose support made this dignified celebration possible:

Gold Leaf Sponsors: **EY Polska** and **Fieldfisher**

Silver Sponsors: **ARPI Accounting** and **Siltec Sp. z o.o.**

Bronze Sponsors: **ICS Polska** and **KGHM Polska Miedź S.A.**



Past Events

Canada Day Celebration at the PCCC Family Picnic June 29

What a joyful Sunday it was for the members, families, and friends of the Polish Canadian Chamber of Commerce, as we came together to celebrate Canada Day during our annual Family Picnic!

We spent several cheerful hours at the welcoming Boathouse Restaurant, filled with warm conversations, laughter, and fun activities for our youngest guests.

One of the highlights of the day was our raffle draw, which brought lots of excitement—especially with the grand prizes of two airline tickets to Canada!



This wonderful day wouldn't have been possible without the generous support of our sponsors.
A heartfelt thanks for:

Gold Maple Leaf Sponsor:



Silver Maple Leaf Sponsors:



Bronze Maple Leaf Sponsors:



In-kind Partners:



Past Events

Official Visit of the Prime Minister of Canada, The Right Honourable Mark Carney, to Poland PCCC joins the Canadian PM in a Business Roundtable on Trade and Security_August 25



On August 25, during the official visit of The Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada, to Poland, the Embassy of Canada hosted a roundtable with the Prime Minister and top-level Polish and Canadian business leaders.

The discussion, attended by Polish Canadian Chamber of Commerce President Bernhard L. Otterstein and Board Member Bartłomiej Niescierowicz – representing PCCC Patron Member CGI – brought together senior business representatives from key sectors in both countries to address key current and future issues in bilateral cooperation.

Topics included energy security, critical minerals, aerospace, digital innovation, as well as broader trade and security cooperation within the strategic Canada–Poland relationship.

The event was hosted by H.E. Catherine Godin, Ambassador of Canada to Poland, with the participation of Andrzej Domański, CFA, Poland's Minister of Finance and the Economy, alongside CEOs and senior leaders of select PCCC member companies and stakeholders.

The PCCC extends its appreciation to the Prime Minister's Office, the Embassy of Canada, and all participants for this meaningful dialogue, and reaffirms its ongoing commitment to strengthening business, investment, and security ties between Canada and Poland.



Past Events

33rd International Defence Industry Exhibition MSPO Kielce_September 2-5



Polish Canadian Chamber of Commerce is proud to highlight its strong presence at MSPO 2025.

PCCC Board members- President Bernhard L. Otterstein, Vice President Areta Kempieńska, Vice President George Havaris, Board Member Andrzej Siess, as well as PCCC member companies from the defence sector like CGI, CAE and L3Harris Technologies had a busy schedule!

This year's edition showcased Canada's growing role in global defence cooperation. The Canadian Delegation, led by Parliamentary Secretary Yasir Naqvi and Ambassador Catherine Godin, together with nearly 50 Canadian companies made a significant impact.

We are grateful to everyone who engaged with our team throughout the event. The exchanges and partnerships initiated this week lay a strong foundation for future collaboration across defence, technology, and security.

With Canada announced as Lead Nation for MSPO 2026, we are already preparing for an even stronger presence in Kielce next year.

Save the date: September 8-11, 2026

Annual General Meeting

Members of the Polish Canadian Chamber of Commerce Re-elect the President and Board and Approve the 2024 Annual Report June 26

The Polish Canadian Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce the outcome of its Annual General Meeting held on June 26, 2025.

During the meeting, members approved the PCCC Management and Audit Committee Reports for 2024 and re-elected the President and Board of Directors for the upcoming term.

We are proud to share the composition of the newly elected Board:

President:

Bernhard L. Otterstein

Vice Presidents:

Areta Kempieńska / Bireta Professional Translations

George Havaris / JDP Drapała & Partners Law Firm

Secretary:

Paul B. Fogo

Board Members:

Andrzej Siess / Raben Logistics

Hubert Durlík / ICS Polska

Bartłomiej Nieścierewicz / CGI Polska

Changes were also introduced in the Audit Committee, which now includes:

Anna Mazurek / EY

Marcin Jakubaszek / Jakubaszek Law Firm

Piotr Chudzik / Trigon

We would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude to **Nicholas Rytel** from EY for his many years of dedicated service and contributions to the Audit Committee of the Chamber. As Head of Assurance at EY, Nicholas and his firm continue to be a valued Patron Member of the PCCC.

A special thank you goes to Patron Member CGI Polska for graciously hosting us at their beautiful office space at Plac Trzech Krzyży in Warsaw.



Upcoming Events

Back to Business Mixer_September 17



BACK TO BUSINESS *Speed Mixer*

SAVE the DATE 17.09.2025 5:00 PM

venue SGH WARSAW SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS
Aula Spadochronowa
Al. Niepodleglosci 162
No parking available,
Metro/Tram/Bus
Pole Mokotowskie

STRATEGIC PARTNER: SGH Warsaw School of Economics, THE CANADIAN MBA, academic software, Part of Signpost

SPONSOR: academic software, Part of Signpost

ORGANISERS:
AUSTRIA, Belgian Business Chamber, british polish chamber of commerce, POLISH CANADIAN CHAMBER of COMMERCE, IRISH POLISH Chamber of Commerce, CAMERA DI COMMERCIO E INDUSTRIA ITALIANA IN POLONIA, poland luxembourg chamber of commerce, Netherlands Polish chamber of commerce, Polish-Romanian Bistart Chamber of Commerce and Industry, POLSKO-HISPANSKA IZBA GOSPODARCA, POLSKO-SWISS Chamber Poland, POLSKO-UKRAINSKA IZBA GOSPODARCA

International Speed Business Mixer_November 6



International Speed Business Mixer

ORGANISERS:
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Upcoming Events

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North American Networking Night

Rebuild Ukraine International Exhibition & Conference November 13-14



Upcoming Events

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Challenges and Successes for Canadian Investors Report

The report prepared for the Embassy of Canada to Poland by the Polish Canadian Chamber of Commerce (PCCC), explores the investment climate in Poland from a Canadian perspective.

Drawing on the experiences of Canadian investors, it offers insights on how to succeed in investing in Poland, and highlights the numerous successes that Canadian companies have achieved there.

The report addresses the nuances of expanding into Poland, providing guidance on navigating and mitigating challenges and unforeseen hindrances to business development. It aims to prepare future Canadian investors for a prosperous expansion into the lucrative Polish market.

Executive Summary

Poland's prime location in Central Europe, its robust economy, skilled workforce, and modern, world-class infrastructure make it a magnet for Canadian investors. In 2024, bilateral trade between Canada and Poland soared to CAD \$4.4 billion, thanks to the provisional application of the Canada European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).

Canadian companies are thriving across various sectors such as energy, defense and agriculture. Success stories are plentiful. For example, Circle K's swift growth in retail in Poland, CGI's crucial contributions to national security, and McCain's remarkable sustainability efforts in agriculture. These examples highlight the vast potential for Canadian businesses to thrive in Poland.

However, some obstacles and hinderances to business do exist. While these challenges are not pervasive, they can arise in specific contexts and require careful navigation.

This report discusses the challenges faced by some Canadian investors, emphasizing the need to gain an understanding of the motivations of state-owned entities, navigate complex domestic and EU regulations, and establish strong local partnerships.

Cases like Europort Inc.'s ongoing dispute with the Port Authority of Gdańsk and challenges encountered by some energy and natural resources exploration companies highlight the importance of building insights into the local ways and means of getting things done, as well as strategic planning and adaptability.

Interviews with Canadian investors reveal that while Poland offers lucrative market opportunities, it also presents unique challenges that require careful navigation. The Trade Commissioner Service (TCS) at the Canadian Embassy in Warsaw is a key resource, providing market intelligence, strategic connections, and advocacy efforts.

This report equips future Canadian investors with the basic insights needed for successful expansion into Poland's promising market. By leveraging the support from the TCS and the PCCC, Canadian companies can maximize their growth potential while establishing a strong and lasting presence in Poland.



U.S. Tariffs: Impact on Canada, Poland, and Global Trade

Speaker: Bernhard Otterstein
President of the Polish Canadian Chamber of Commerce
TVP WORLD, April 2025

Executive Summary

Overview

Bernhard Otterstein evaluates the effects of newly announced U.S. tariffs on Canada, Poland, and global trade dynamics.

Key Stakeholder Concerns

- Exporters and manufacturers in Canada are deeply concerned by the new tariffs, owing to potential disruptions in trade flows and cost increases.
- Polish-Canadian trade might also be negatively affected as part of broader global trade tensions.

Political and Institutional Responses

- In Canada, Premier Doug Ford has publicly advocated for the removal of tariffs on a mutually beneficial basis.
- The European Commission has pledged to develop and implement a “strong plan” in response to the rising trade risks.

Strategic Risks Highlighted

President Otterstein emphasizes the broader economic risk posed by these tariffs, warning that ongoing or escalating trade barriers could contribute to a slowdown in global economic growth.

Summary at a glance

Theme	Summary
Main Impact	U.S. tariffs creating strain on export sectors in Canada, with potential spillover to Poland.
Canadian Response	Political pressure for reciprocal removal of tariffs.
EU Reaction	European Commission promises robust countermeasures or support plan.
Broader Concern	Risk of global economic deceleration if trade restrictions continue.



European Defence Mechanism – How to Finance Defence?

Speaker: Bernhard Otterstein
President of the Polish Canadian Chamber of Commerce
TVP WORLD, April 2025



Executive Summary

In the context of rising global uncertainties, the European Union has launched the ReArm Europe initiative, an ambitious program aimed at enhancing EU's collective defence capabilities. The interview with Bernhard Otterstein addresses key challenges and proposed approaches for financing this European defence mechanism.

Context & Rationale

The initiative responds to intensifying geopolitical tensions and growing pressure on EU defence systems.

Key Challenges

Securing sustainable funding to support defence capabilities across diverse member states, while navigating institutional and regulatory constraints (e.g., bureaucracy), remains the primary obstacle.

Strategic Goals

The ReArm Europe plan seeks to consolidate funding streams, streamline defence procurement processes, and promote coordinated defense investments across the EU.

Desired Outcomes

A more unified and strategically autonomous EU that can respond decisively to external threats, reducing dependency on external allies.

Powering Poland: Canada's Strategic Role in Energy and Bilateral Growth

Speaker: Bernhard L. Otterstein
President of the Polish-Canadian Chamber of Commerce
Warsaw Business Journal, May 2025

Executive Summary:

The economic partnership between Poland and Canada has grown significantly in recent years, fueled by the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), which has helped double bilateral trade to CAD 4.6 billion. Despite global disruptions such as supply chain challenges, inflation, and U.S. trade tensions, this relationship remains resilient and continues to expand across multiple sectors.

Canada and Poland share strategic diplomatic, political, and military alliances, cooperating closely within NATO, the OECD, the EU, and the G7. Their mutual commitment was reaffirmed in recent high-level meetings and formalized through the Canada-Poland Nuclear Energy Cooperation Agreement, positioning energy—particularly nuclear power—as a focal point of bilateral collaboration. Canadian firms like Ontario Power Generation, GE Hitachi, Laurentis, and Northland Power are leading major nuclear and renewable energy projects in Poland, significantly contributing to the country's energy transition and security.

Beyond energy, Canadian companies are active in Poland's aerospace, defense, IT, and pharmaceutical sectors, while Polish companies like KGHM and Orlen are investing in Canada's mining and oil & gas industries. Though Canadian firms sometimes face challenges navigating Poland's state-influenced sectors, strong stakeholder engagement helps overcome regulatory and market entry barriers.

The Polish diaspora in Canada—about 1 million people—plays a valuable role in fostering cultural and economic ties, supporting Polish products and initiatives across Canadian markets. Looking ahead, trade and investment prospects remain strong, especially if global shifts open new opportunities, and a full ratification of CETA by Poland could further enhance cooperation.

Key Stats (2024)

- Bilateral trade: CAD 4.6 billion (goods), \$438 million (services)
- Canadian FDI in Poland: \$835 million; 50 companies, 15,000+ employees
- Polish FDI in Canada: \$5.2 billion, led by KGHM and other strategic investors

Energy security is the defining sector of the Polish-Canadian partnership, but the future holds promise across multiple high-growth industries, reinforced by shared values and strategic alignment.

G7 Summit: European Leaders Seek to Rebuild Ties with Donald Trump

Speaker: Bernhard Otterstein
President of the Polish Canadian Chamber of Commerce
TVP WORLD, June 2025

Executive Summary

Key Highlights

1. Call for Rapprochement—European leaders at the recent G7 summit acknowledged the growing importance of improving relations with President Trump. Bernhard Otterstein emphasized that strategic diplomacy could be essential to restoring global economic stability
2. Notable Absences on the Global Stage—President Otterstein highlighted the conspicuous absence of two major global powers—China and Russia—from the G7 discussions. Their exclusion is seen as a symbol of current geopolitical divisions and limits the forum's capacity to influence global economic outcomes fully.
3. Historical Context & Strategic Missed Opportunities—President Trump's critique of Russia's exclusion in 2014 was revisited, with B. Otterstein suggesting that continued Russian participation might have deterred the annexation of Crimea. The historical exclusion may be fueling ongoing geopolitical tensions.

Strategic Implications from Otterstein's Commentary

- **Diplomacy as a Tool for Stability:** B.Otterstein supports efforts to reestablish dialogue with Trump-era U.S. leadership as a key step in stabilizing global trade relations.
- **G7's Limitations:** Absence of China and Russia weakens G7's legitimacy as a forum for addressing global economic and political challenges.
- **Historical Lessons:** Ignoring geopolitical inclusion in past decisions may have contributed to later crises, underlining the need for inclusive and constructive global dialogue.

Major Takeaways

Bernhard Otterstein's insights highlight the critical role of diplomacy in navigating today's fragmented geopolitical and economic landscape. The G7—or similar forums—cannot drive global consensus without embracing more inclusive representation. Re-engaging with influencers across all spectra of power may provide new avenues for cooperation and conflict prevention.

Trump, Trade & the €2T EU Budget: What Is Canada's Role?

Speaker: Bernhard Otterstein
President of the Polish Canadian Chamber of Commerce
TVP WORLD, July 2025

Executive Summary

Context & Key Highlights

1. Escalating Trump-era Trade Tensions
2. U.S. President Donald Trump has intensified global trade frictions by announcing steep tariffs—ranging from 25% to 35%—on imports from key allies, including EU nations, Canada, Mexico, India, and others. The EU has responded by initiating consultations around countermeasures targeting U.S. imports such as automobiles, industrial machinery, and IT equipment, amounting to over €95 bn in covered goods.
3. Canada's Unique Position in U.S.–EU–Global Trade.
4. Despite new tariffs, Canada remains insulated through the USMCA trade agreement: approximately 92–99% of its exports to the U.S.—notably oil and energy—continue entering duty-free. However, smaller businesses reliant on non-USMCA-compliant goods have faced direct economic impacts, particularly in sectors like furniture and chemicals.
5. EU's €2 Technological & Industrial Sovereignty Agenda
6. The European Union is evaluating strategic investments and budget allocations in areas such as energy, security, and technology to counterbalance U.S. protectionism. Canada is exploring collaborative roles within this strategic framework, given its close economic and political ties with both the U.S. and the EU.
7. Political and Economic Opportunity for Canada
8. Facing U.S. tariff pressures, Canada is increasingly looking beyond North America—toward European markets and deeper collaborations with the EU. Canadian leaders, including Trade Minister Dominic LeBlanc and Prime Minister Mark Carney, have confirmed ongoing talks to diversify trade, and stressed the need to reduce dependence on the U.S. framework.

Implications from Otterstein's Commentary

Bernhard Otterstein underscores the strategic turning point:

- **Policy Uncertainty:** Trump's tariffs have unsettled global trade dynamics, signaling potential fragmentation of long-standing trade blocs.
- **Canada as Bridge:** With established connections to both the U.S. and EU, Canada is uniquely positioned to stabilize trade relationships, contribute to EU investment strategies, and serve as a credible intermediary.
- **European Diversification:** Increased collaboration with European counterparts may help Canada mitigate the risks of overdependence on the U.S. market.
- **Forward Strategy:** Canada and EU share mutual interest in preserving economic ties, exploring multilateral cooperation, and responding collectively to external trade pressures.

Takeaway for Stakeholders

This commentary provides a timely reflection on how Canada can reposition itself as a trusted trading partner and strategic ally amid intensifying U.S. protectionism. For businesses, policymakers, and investors, it highlights the urgency of diversifying supply chains, strengthening EU partnerships, and preparing for a more fragmented global trade landscape.



Canadian PM Mark Carney Visits Warsaw to Bolster Defence and Business Ties

Speaker: Bernhard Otterstein
President of the Polish Canadian Chamber of Commerce
TVP WORLD, August 2025

Executive Summary

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney was in Warsaw on September 25, meeting with both Prime Minister Donald Tusk and President Karol Nawrocki, and calling Poland “absolutely essential” to Ukraine’s defence. With Ottawa pledging more than €620 million in new military support and Poland pushing defence spending to nearly 5% of GDP, the two countries are deepening their partnership.

Bernhard Otterstein, President of the Polish Canadian Chamber of Commerce explains for TVP WORLD what this means for business and mutual security.

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney's visit to Warsaw highlighted Poland's critical role in supporting Ukraine, describing Poland as "absolutely essential" to Ukraine's defense. Canada pledged over €620 million in new military aid, while Poland is increasing its defense spending to nearly 5% of GDP, which strengthens their military and logistical cooperation. Poland acts as a crucial logistics hub for humanitarian and military aid to Ukraine.

The trade relationship between Canada and Poland is robust and based on shared values and strategic goals. Major growth sectors include energy security, notably collaborations in renewable energy and nuclear technology such as Small Modular Reactors (SMRs), defence, aviation, cyber security, and IT. Joint projects in the energy sector emphasize clean and nuclear energy as critical cooperation pillars.

Poland is recognized as a NATO leader, with Canada learning from Poland's commitment and experience within the alliance. Military cooperation includes training Ukrainian soldiers on Polish soil under Operation Unifier, symbolizing mutual defence support and knowledge exchange.

The partnership is also deeply rooted in historical and cultural ties, supported by a large Polish diaspora in Canada, fostering trust and collaboration beyond political and economic realms. Overall, the Canada-Poland partnership is rapidly advancing across defence, energy, trade, and technological innovation, anchored by shared democratic values and a strategic vision for security and prosperity in Europe and beyond.



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