

CANADA AND POLAND ARE INTERESTED IN COOPERATION

XXIV Polish-Canadian Meeting of Business People and Professionals of Windsor

THE POLISH-CANADIAN BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WINDSOR

PROGRAMME

The 24th Annual Polish-Canadian Society Business Dinner
8:30 p.m., Friday, November 22, 2019
Dom Polski Hall, 1975 Langlois Ave., Windsor

Professor Józef Zajac
Senator, Republic of Poland
Keynote Speaker

Windsor-Lublin, Twin Cities since 2000

This year, we mark the 70th Anniversary of the beginning of WW2 in Poland and also celebrate the 450th Anniversary of the Lublin Union, which created one of the largest states in Europe, lasting 230 years!

Our partner city Lublin this year celebrated the 450th anniversary of the formation of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in the Lublin Union. The Polish Nation and the City of Lublin marked the 230 years of the existence of this, the largest country in Europe at that time. In this way, the Lublin Union was a forerunner of the European Union. Poland is part of the modern European Union from 2004 and plays a political and economic role of increasing importance in it. She is a good partner in cooperation for nations, not only in Europe but around the world, including Canada, which recently signed an agreement (CETA) with the European Union.



Polish-Canadian cooperation was a theme of the XXIV Annual Polish-Canadian Meeting of Business People and Professionals, which took place on November 22, 2019, at the Dom Polski in Windsor. More than a hundred people took part in the event, including several guests from Poland with Senator Józef Zajac at their head. President Jerzy Barycki opened the meeting, offering his greetings and congratulations to all the politicians, who had been elected in the recent elections both in Poland and in Canada. For Senator Zajac it is his third term of carrying out the function of senator in the Chelm Riding, while for our local federal representative Brian Masse, it is his seventh since 2002 in the Riding of West Windsor. Of great importance to Polonia is the election of a new MP for Windsor-Tecumseh from the governing party, Irek Kuśmierczyk, born in Kraśnik, Poland. In turn, from the party in opposition we have a new MP, Chris Lewis from Essex. It is noteworthy that Windsor-Essex is represented at the federal level by the three largest parties, which is sure to bring benefit to our region as well as to our Association, which cooperates with all political parties in Canada and in Poland.



VIPs, from left: Beata Falda, Jerzy Barycki, Julia Zalewski, Dominic Roszak, Barbara Lemecha, Mikołaj A. Cholewicz, Józef Zajac, Brian Masse, Chris Lewis, and Ed Sleiman



Thank you to speakers, from left: Jerzy Barycki, Józef Zajac, Ania Barycka, Joanna Marks, Stephen MacKenzie, and Robert Górnik

Words of greeting were presented by the invited honoured guests in the following order: the Embassy of the Republic of Poland was represented by the Head of the Political-Economic Department, Mikołaj Cholewicz; the Federal MPs Masse and Lewis; the Provincial MPP, Percy Hatfield, Windsor-Tecumseh; Councillor Ed Sleiman, City of Windsor; Secretary General Dominik Roszak, Chief Council of the Canadian Polish Congress; and Vice President Barbara Lemecha, Polish American Congress, Michigan Division, USA. The speakers emphasized the active cooperation as well as the significant accomplishments of our Association, which benefits the Polonia and Canadian environment, at the level of the city, the province and the nation, both in Canada and in Poland.

The latest statistics show that Poland is one of the most attractive countries for investment in the world, while Canada has impressive economic achievements and is one of the most prosperous countries in the world. The Keynote Speaker of the evening was Professor Józef Zając, who in his presentation drew attention to the significant accomplishments and plans for future development of the Chełm region. He encouraged the creation of businesses in Poland and in Chełm, where there is an exceptionally good economic situation. He spoke about investments in the education sector in the Chełm area, the State Professional School of Higher Education (represented by the Prorektor, Dr. Beata Falda), the Aviation Laboratory of the Centre for Engineering Studies, the Pilots' School, the construction of an airport, and plans for building the Institute of Medical Sciences, where there are plans to train nurses and later doctors. Senator Józef Zając is the main initiator and joint creator of these investments, which today are recognized in the success and business profile of Chełm.

President Barycki encouraged wider development of cooperation on a local scale; an example of this was the mission in May from our Windsor-Essex region to Poland. The delegation visited Warszawa, Lublin, Kraśnik and Chełm, said Stephen MacKenzie, CEO/President of the Windsor-Essex Economic Development Corporation. In his presentation, he talked about the growing economic potential of Canada-Poland, particularly now with the signing of CETA. During the meeting, Robert Górnik expressed willingness and opportunity for cooperation. He represented the Federation of Entrepreneurs and Employers in Poland as well as his firm Pro-Ventura that catalogues and stores archival documents. There is increasing talk of a business mission from the Province of Ontario to Poland. Natalia Kusendova, a young MPP, spoke about this at last year's meeting.



Józef Palimaka, WWII veteran, looks at the Jerzy Radwanek display

The significant presence of a group of young Polonia members, about 20 % of the participants, is an example of the interest and growing dynamics of cooperation with our Association. Young professionals presented a report on this year's international Quo Vadis X Conference in Toronto. The joint organizers, Ania Barycka and Joanna Marks, spoke about the interesting programme of the conference, the significant achievements of individual participants in the conference, of their joint activities and desire to build a better future. One of the most important goals of our Association is support for the potential and aspirations of the younger generation, our successors. One example of the involvement of young people is provided by Julia Zalewska, a fourth-year student at the University of Windsor, who for the second time acted as Master of Ceremonies. Julia introduced our new display about Jerzy Radwanek, a prisoner in the concentration camp KL Auschwitz, who for his help to Jewish people was honoured with the Medal of Righteous Among Nations. The display will be shown from November 29 to December 4, 2019, in the Leddy Library of our university.



Awarding Centennial Gold Medals of the Windsor Polonia, from left at the centre: Marta Stępień, Paweł Piasecki, Mariusz Zalewski and PCBPAW Honorary Membership for Senator Józef Zając

Next came the expressions of thanks and awards, presented by Prof. Frank Simpson. The Centennial Gold Medal of the Polish Community in Windsor was presented to Marta Stępień (Miss Universe Canada 2018) and two individuals active in Polonia, Paweł Piasecki and Mariusz Zalewski. Senator Zając became an Honorary Member of our Association. The sponsors and the organisers were thanked. Grants from the Millennium Foundation amounting to a total of \$8,800.00 were awarded to six students from Windsor. The official presentations were made by Beata Ślusarczyk, a Director of the Foundation, and Ewa Barycka, President of the Canadian Polish Congress in Windsor.



Millennium Foundation scholarships



Thank you to sponsors

Summing up the presentations of the speakers and the comments of the guests, one can say that a strategic economic partnership of Canada and Poland in the XXI Century presents great potential that should be developed better. There is hope that the positive approach and desire for involvement and cooperation, which were emphasized at the meeting, will produce results in the future. Julia ended the official part of the programme with an invitation to next year's meeting on November 20, 2020, during which there will be celebrations of the XX Anniversary of the twin cities Lublin-Windsor and the XXV Anniversary of our Association.



From left: Jacqueline Wojciechowski (Miss Globe 2014) and Marta Stępień (Miss Universe Canada 2018)

THE POLISH-CANADIAN BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WINDSOR

Invitation

to the 25th Annual Polish Canadian Society Business Dinner

Krzysztof Żuk

Mayor of Lublin, Keynote Speaker (invited)

25 years of Contributions to Windsor, Canada, Polonia and Poland

You are cordially invited to the 25th Annual Polish-Canadian Society Business Dinner scheduled on Friday, November 20, 2020, at the Caboto Hall, 2475 Parent Ave, Windsor. The VIP Reception starts at 5:30 p.m. and the Programme at 6:30 p.m.

We respectfully request that participants purchase tickets before November 1st, 2020. Tickets cost \$100 per person, for young professionals \$50 and for students \$30. Please mail a cheque, payable to: the Polish-Canadian Business Association, 2050 Willistead Cr., Windsor, Ontario, N8Y 1K5. Please provide the names of participants for the seating arrangements.

For payments online, please use the Eventbrite link: TBD

For more information, please contact Jerry Barycki: e-mail jerrybarycki@gmail.com.

FINAL: 18.11.2019



The artistic element of the evening was the performance by the Song and Dance Ensemble "Tatry", which in beautiful costumes and with youthful energy performed folk dances, first "Highlander" ("Góralski") and at the close "Sieradz". The ensemble is our cultural beacon in Windsor, in Canada and far beyond her borders. The singing and dancing of the young people met with the strong approval of everyone present in the hall, expressed as enthusiastic applause at the close of the performance.



Pictures taken by Dorothy Csecs, those marked as "JB" taken by Jerry Barycki, who compiled this report, including graphics. Text by Ewa Barycka, 26.11.2019, and translated from the Polish by Frank Simpson, University of Windsor: 28.11.2019, DRAFT