

# **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

Meeting held May 21, 2025

A meeting of the International Relations Committee is held this day commencing at 3:30 o'clock p.m. in Room 522a, 350 City Hall Square West, there being present the following members:

Councillor Angelo Marignani, Chair  
Councillor Renaldo Agostino  
Councillor Fred Francis  
Councillor Ed Sleiman  
Lubna Barakat  
Jerry Barycki  
Saiful Bhuiyan  
Ronnie Haidar (via Zoom)  
L.T. Zhao (via Zoom)

## ***Regrets received from:***

William Ma

## ***Also present are the following resource personnel:***

Sandra Gebauer, Council Assistant  
Karen Kadour, Committee Coordinator

### **1. Call to Order**

The Chair calls the meeting to order at 3:30 o'clock p.m. and the Committee considers the Agenda being Schedule A attached hereto, matters which are dealt with as follows:

### **2. Declaration of Conflict**

None disclosed.

### 3. Minutes

Moved by Councillor Ed Sleiman, seconded by Lubna Barakat,  
That the minutes of the International Relations Committee of its meeting held January 30, 2025, **BE ADOPTED** as presented.  
Carried.

### 4. Business Items

#### 4.1 Delegation to Lublin, Poland and Mannheim, Germany – July 24-27, 2025 and the Letter from Mayor Dilkens to the Mayor of Lublin

Sandra Gebauer advises that the delegation to Lublin, Poland, led by Mayor Dilkens has been confirmed for July 24 – 27, 2025. The delegation will include the Mayor and two representatives from the International Relations Committee. She notes that there had been prior discussion about including Mannheim, Germany in this trip to commemorate the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning relationship. The Mayor's Office is currently preparing a letter to Mannheim to confirm. Discussion ensues regarding the two delegates that will accompany Mayor Dilkens.

Moved by Councillor Renaldo Agostino, seconded by Councillor Fred Francis,  
That **APPROVAL BE GIVEN** for a delegation, led by Mayor Drew Dilkens, and including Councillor Angelo Marignani, Chair and Jerry Barycki, to travel to Lublin, Poland from July 24 – July 27, 2025, and to Mannheim, Germany, before the visit to Lublin, and further;  
Should an additional delegate spot become available, a draw be held.  
Carried.

Sandra Gebauer asks if other members are interested in going to Lublin and Mannheim. Ronnie Haidar, Saiful Bhuiyan, and Councillor Renaldo Agostino expressed interest in joining the delegation.

#### 4.2 China Delegation – Verbal update

Sandra Gebauer advises that Changchun, China has regretfully cancelled their planned visit and will advise when their delegation will be able to visit the City of Windsor.

Moved by Councillor Fred Francis, seconded by Councillor Renaldo Agostino,  
That the update regarding the cancellation of the Changchun, delegation's to visit the City of Windsor **BE RECEIVED** for information.  
Carried.

### 4.3 Children's Art Exhibition

Sandra Gebauer reports that space has been confirmed at Devonshire Mall from October 6, 2025, to October 14, 2025, for the children's art display. She notes that Ronnie Haidar will be reaching out to the University of Windsor to explore the possibility of displaying the exhibit at one of their facilities such as the CAW Centre, the Toldo Lancers Centre or the School of Creative Arts.

The Chair remarks that this would be an additional venue to Devonshire Mall.

In response to a question asked by Ronnie Haidar regarding the number of days and hours per day, Sandra Gebauer responds that the Committee will accommodate whatever schedule the facility prefers. She adds that direction was provided at the last meeting to explore the University of Windsor, and Art Windsor Essex as additional exhibit locations. She states that Art Windsor Essex (formerly known as the Art Gallery of Windsor) is pleased to host the Children's Art Exhibition, however, due to space limitations, the exhibition may be held digitally.

Sandra Gebauer asks about a theme for 2025. The following ideas for a theme are proposed – Global Village, and Friendships from Neighborhoods to Nations. It is generally agreed that the theme for 2025 will be *"Friendships from Neighbourhoods to Nations"*.

Moved by Saiful Bhuiyan, seconded by Councillor Ed Sleiman,  
That the theme for the 2025 Children's Art Exhibition entitled *"Friendships from Neighbourhoods to Nations"* **BE APPROVED**, and further, that the Event **BE HELD** on October 6, 2025, to October 14, 2025 at Devonshire Mall, with dates at the University of Windsor, and Art Windsor Essex to be determined  
Carried.

### 4.4 Arlington, Texas – Verbal Update

Sandra Gebauer advises at the last meeting, it was agreed to move forward with a Letter of Intent with Arlington, Texas, however, due to the recent tariff situation, the Mayor's Office has recommended pausing this action. This information was explained to Sheri Capehart from Arlington, who suggested moving forward with site visits. Councillor Fred Francis reiterates that there is a Twin City Policy, and politics should not enter into any decisions; it is about people to people.

Moved by Councillor Fred Francis, seconded by Jerry Barycki,  
That Arlington, Texas **BE INFORMED** that the International Relations Committee is pausing all initiatives until further notice but remains optimistic that dialogue will resume in the near future.

Carried.

#### 4.5 Fujisawa Misono Joaquin High School

The Chair advises that the students from the Fujisawa Misono Joaquin High School will be visiting the City of Windsor from July 22, 2025, to July 31, 2025.

Moved by Councillor Fred Francis, seconded by Jerry Barycki,  
That **APPROVAL BE GIVEN** to an upset limit of \$500 for the purchase of a cake and refreshments to celebrate the visit of the Fujisawa Misono Joaquin High School students.

Carried.

#### 4.6 Udine, Italy

The Chair advises that the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the twinning of Udine, Italy with the City of Windsor will occur in 2026. Sandra Gebauer indicates following the visit from the Udine group at the Fogolar Furlan in 2024, a representative from Udine contacted her to determine if something can be done in 2026 as they are looking to revive the relationship with the City of Windsor.

Moved by Councillor Fred Francis, seconded by Councillor Renaldo Agostino,  
That the dialogue with our Twin City Udine, Italy **BE CONTINUED**.  
Carried.

### 5. Communications

#### 5.1 Changchun, China Ceramics Symposium

Sandra Gebauer suggests that this information be forwarded to Invest Windsor Essex or the Chamber of Commerce.

#### 5.2 Gunsan Brews & Blues Festival

Sandra Gebauer remarks that the information for the Festival was received on May 9, 2025, with a deadline of May 13, 2025. She asked if an extension of time would be

considered but it was not agreeable to the facilitators of the event. She requested that the organizers in 2026 provide the date for the event in advance to allow for sufficient time to contact our local breweries to see if there is interest.

Councillor Renaldo Agostino asks if Canadian breweries are allowed to export alcohol to Gunsan. He suggests looking into the logistics of the AGCO. Sandra Gebauer will contact the AGCO to determine the logistics of exporting alcohol to Gunsan and will report back.

### **5.3 Polish Heritage Month**

Jerry Barycki provides an overview of the Programme for the Polish Heritage Month.

### **5.4 Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Poland in Windsor**

Jerry Barycki reports that the inauguration of this Consulate was held on March 13, 2025.

### **5.5 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Polish Canadian Business Dinner**

Jerry Barycki advises that the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Polish Canadian Business Dinner will be held on Friday, November 14, 2025, at the Giovanni Caboto Club, 2175 Parent Avenue.

Moved by Councillor Fred Francis, seconded by Councillor Renaldo Agostino,  
That **APPROVAL BE GIVEN** to an expenditure in the upset limit of \$960 to purchase a table of 8 at the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Polish Canadian Business Dinner to be held on November 14, 2025, at the Giovanni Caboto Club.  
Carried.

### **5.6 Letter from the Polish Canadian Business and Professional Association of Windsor to Mayor Zuk**

This matter was received for information.

### **5.7 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Polish Canadian Business and Professional Association of Windsor and 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the twinning of Windsor and Lublin**

The Chair commends Jerry Barycki for recording the history of the Polish Windsor community. Jerry Barycki remarks that this is a great opportunity for members of the IRC to be seen.

**6. New Business**

L.T. Zhao reports that efforts to establish a sister school relationship between Tecumseh Vista Academy and Changchun Shiyi High School are ongoing, with continued communication between the two institutions.

**7. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held at the call of the Chair.

**8. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 4:25 o'clock p.m.