

AGENDA
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
meeting held Wednesday, September 2, 2026
at 3:30 o'clock p.m.
Room 522a, 350 City Hall Square West

1. Call to Order

READING OF LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We [I] would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations, which includes the Ojibwa, the Odawa, and the Potawatomie. The City of Windsor honours all First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples and their valuable past and present contributions to this land

2. Declaration of Conflict

3. Minutes

Adoption of the minutes of the meeting May 20, 2026 – ***attached***

4. Business Items

4.1 Request for Twin City Partnership between Kryvyi Rih, Ukraine and the City of Windsor – ***attached***

4.2 Request for Twin City Partnership between Bondy/Paris, France and the City of Windsor – ***attached***

4.3 Verbal Update - San Juan del Rio, Mexico

4.4 Verbal Update - Shkodra, Albania

4.5 Verbal Update - Children's Art Exhibition

5. Communications

5.1 Letter from Mayor Jae-jun KIM of Gunsan to Mayor Dilkens - ***attached***

5.2 Profile of Mayor Jae-jun KIM of Gunsan, South Korea - ***attached***

5.3 Farewell Letter from Mr. Krzysztof Stanowski, Director, International Cooperation Centre, Lublin Municipal Office - ***attached***

5.4 Pictorial Report – Polish Heritage Month 2026 - ***attached***

5.5 Report from Three Seas Congress in Lublin, Poland - ***attached***

6. New Business

7. Date of Next Meeting

8. Adjournment

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Meeting held May 20, 2026

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, (arrives at 3:45 o'clock p.m.)
Councillor Ed Sleiman
Lubna Barakat, (via Zoom video conference)
Saiful Bhuiyan
Ronnie Haidar
L.T. Zhao (via Zoom video conference)

Regrets received from:

Councillor Fred Francis

Guests in attendance:

Carlie Flack, Foreign Relations Commissioner, Chamber of Commerce, San Juan del Río, Querétaro, México and Rodrigo Báez, Head Consul of Mexico in Leamington, Ontario, regarding ***Item 4.1***
John Fraser and Amanda Gellman, regarding ***Item 4.2***

Via Zoom regarding ***Item 4.1:***

- Javier Peña Perrusquia, Coordinador General UAQ Campus San Juan del Río
- Christopher Vázquez, UAQ Campus San Juan del Río
- Carlos Redfern, Representante de RCG Advisory
- José Julio Rodríguez Guzmán, Director del CONALEP Plantel San Juan del Río
- Abigail Durán, Coordinación de Desarrollo Económico de San Juan del Río
- Javier Duran Zárate, Coordinación Técnica de Desarrollo Económico del municipio de San Juan del Río, Querétaro.
- Dario Velázquez, Coordinación de Desarrollo Económico de San Juan del Río
- María del Carmen Amezcuita, Instituto Tecnológico de San Juan del Río
- Rubén Espinoza Castro, Director del Instituto Tecnológico de San Juan del Río Karen Trejo Garduño, Empresa INPLARSA
- Abraham Corona Ruíz, Director de Fomento a la Inversión y Desarrollo Empresarial del Municipio de San Juan del Río, Querétaro.
- Miguel Uribe Esquivel, Director de la Universidad IFES
- Claudia Patricia Trejo Díaz, Coordinadora de Asuntos Internacionales de la UTSJR

Also present are the following resource personnel

Matthew Johnson, Executive Director Economic Development
Sandra Gebauer, Council Assistant
Karen Kadour, Committee Coordinator

1. Call to Order

The Chair calls the meeting to order at 3:38 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 February 24, 2026, **BE ADOPTED** as presented.
Carried.

4. Business Items

4.1 San Juan del Rio Proposal

Carlie Janine Flack, Advisor to the Investment Promotion Committee in San Juan del Rio, Queretaro, Mexico, appeared before the International Relations Committee to present a proposal for a Friendship City Relationship between San Juan del Rio, Queretaro, Mexico and Windsor Ontario Canada, and provided a PowerPoint presentation entitled Friendship City Relationship: San Juan del Rio and Windsor – An International Alliance with Purpose, which is attached as Appendix “A”. The presentation provided by Ms. Flack is as follows:

- A video entitled “Friendship City Relationship San Juan del Rio & Windsor: An International Alliance with Purpose” which provides a visual of San Juan is presented in Spanish.
- Carlie Flack provides the following remarks as it relates to the Presentation:

- This is an initiative born within the Chamber of Commerce and supported by the city government in San Juan del Rio.
- San Juan del Rio is growing very fast and with growth comes great opportunities but also challenges which is forcing them to modernize and to have a vision beyond their own borders.
- There are several similarities between the City of Windsor and San Juan del Rio which creates a natural foundation for collaboration. Both cities are industrial and logistical hubs; their main industry is automotive parts and advanced manufacturing. They also have vineyards with tourism based around that.
- The population consists of 390,000 and the goal is to reach 1 million by the year 2050.
- The average age is 28 with a low unemployment rate of 2.4%.
- In terms of collaboration, she has spoken to the Consulate in Leamington, Invest Windsor Essex, the University of Windsor, St. Clair College. Economic Development Windsor, the Automotive Parts Manufacturers, Association, the Canadian Association of Mold Makers, the Ontario Trade Commission and the Windsor Essex Chamber of Commerce.
- The local government is in full support of the Friendship City project.
- Her proposal is based on three pillars of operation – trade and industry, education, and tourism and culture. The vision is to connect with organizations in those pillars and to create actionable microprojects with them.
- Spoke to Invest Windsor Essex regarding the potential for creating meetings virtually for trade missions so that Canadian companies can promote their products locally to the buyers in San Juan del Rio in the automotive industry and among other industries.
- San Juan will have the opportunity to connect with companies in Windsor that need their products.
- In terms of education, they have gaps in their higher level technical skilled education.
- They would like to bridge that gap so local people can be hired in the higher management areas which comes through education that currently is not offered locally.
- They are interested in partnering with the University of Windsor.
- Suggestion for exchange programs for both faculty and students.
- Could bring nursing students to Windsor to recertify as there is a shortage of nurses in Canada.

In response to a question asked by Lubna Barakat regarding what the second official language in San Juan del Rio is, Carlie Flack responds she suspects it is English and adds they also have indigenous languages as well. She notes that if Canadian students wish to attend university in San Juan del Rio, some classes are offered in English.

Ronnie Haidar asks if San Juan del Rio has other sister cities or friendship cities. Carlie Flack responds that the City of Windsor would be the first.

Councillor Ed Sleiman questions what they are doing above and beyond what is existing at this time in terms of a trade agreement. Carlie Flack responds that the trade agreement will be in negotiations shortly and regardless of what happens with that trade agreement, Mexico will seek an additional trade agreement with Canada directly if a trilateral trade agreement is not reached. She remarks there will still be free trade between the two countries.

Carlie Flack thanks the Committee for receiving this proposal and states it is an honour to represent her city, and all of the supporters backing this proposal.

Moved by Councillor Renaldo Agostino, seconded by Saiful Bhuiyan,
That the International Relations Committee **RECOMMEND** that the City of Windsor and the City of San Juan del Rio enter into a Friendship City Agreement.
Carried.

4.2 Children's Art Exhibition – John Fraser, Graphic Designer Presentation

Amanda Gellman, Media Arts Community Centre and Museum is present and provides the following background information:

- Purchased the former Downtown Mission building and is part of the film and arts community.
- They have a camp for youth ages 8 to 16. They hire folks 19 to 30 in age to teach visual art, photography, film making, animation, and costume design.
- Kids from all over the city and county have been coming to camp since 2012.
- John Fraser presented the idea of taking the Twin Cities Art and to possibly animate it into video.
- Amanda Gellman remarks they can create videos of all of the artwork but can also take still artwork and animated artwork. They are able to create videos and social media pages that each city can plug into which can be shared globally and, to also set up a website.
- They would like to bring this project to life and to live on for a very long time.
- Interested in doing a press conference at the Film Centre to start off in the summer when the kids are there.
- Can also teach art classes to the children from the Twin Cities.
- The 10 Year Anniversary is a great theme and suggests adding Celebration to that theme.

John Frasier, Graphic Designer provides an overview of ideas for the Children's Art Exhibition as follows:

- Was interested when he saw the art exhibit at Art Windsor Essex and the qualities of the different artwork and the different styles that were there.
- Advises they use mapping software at work where there is one large map that can be wrapped on a 3D sphere, so it looks like a globe. It would be a nice project if

they highlighted where exactly all of the twin cities are and eventually could zoom in on the animation to show what the kids love about their cities.

- He suggests during the film camp to go to Walkerville and the children could draw the sculpture of Hiram Walker, the CKLW Sculpture on the waterfront, the Art Gallery; and everything that is great about downtown.
- All of this could be on one map that can be explored and to have one of those animations for each of the twin cities.

Amanda Gellman advises she viewed the artwork at the gallery and is committed to allowing the future artwork to live on. Sandra Gebauer notes that a news release calling for young artists to participate in the 2026 Children's Art Exhibition will be going out in a few days as they want to collect all of the artwork prior to the end of the school year.

In response to a question asked by Amanda Gellman regarding how many pieces of artwork are collected, Sandra Gebauer responds that they ask their Twin Cities to send approximately 20 pieces per city and adds all of the artwork received is included.

Councillor Renaldo Agostino asks if the IRC is able to utilize funding from their budget to assist in this project.

Moved by Councillor Renaldo Agostino, seconded by Councillor Ed Sleiman,
That **APPROVAL BE GIVEN** to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$1,000 from the International Relation Committee's Capital Fund to support the animation of the 2026 Children's Art Exhibition.
Carried.

4.3 Children's Art Exhibit

Sandra Gebauer advises a news release will be issued in the coming days regarding the Children's Art Exhibit. She states that she has reached out to Devonshire Mall already in the event the Committee is interested in hosting a physical display again this year and provided the following weeks: June 22, July 20 and September 7. She remarks that should the Committee wish to proceed with the physical display, September 7 would be the most suitable date, as the art would need to go to the Film Centre first.

Ronnie Haidar advises he is interested in continuing the physical display and asks if laptops or tablets can be available to allow for the public to watch the video.

Moved by Councillor Renaldo Agostino, seconded by Councillor Ed Sleiman,
That the 2026 Children's Art Exhibition **BE HELD** on a date to be determined at Devonshire Mall; and,

That Administration **EXPLORE** the possibility of making laptops or other technology available, so that the animated video that will be created by the participants of the Summer Film Camp can be viewed during the Exhibit opening.

Carried.

4.4 Shkodra Twin City Proposal Discussion – Next Steps

Sandra Gebauer advises that now that the Committee has received and had a chance to review the actual proposal from Shkodra, the Committee must make a recommendation. The Committee report will then be shared along with the proposal with the Mayor's Office, will go before the Development & Heritage Standing Committee and then to City Council for approval.

Moved by Councillor Ed Sleiman, seconded by Lubna Barakat,
That the International Relations Committee **RECOMMENDS** that the Proposal for a Sister City Relationship with Shkodra, Albania **BE APPROVED**.
Carried.

4.5 Gunsan Brews & Blues Festival

Sandra Gebauer advises that further to the request that was received from Gunsan to engage a local Craft Brewery to participate in Gunsan's Brews & Blues Festival and further to the Committee's direction to direct the matter to Tourism Windsor Essex Pelee Island (TWEPI) to follow-up, both Walkerville Brewery and Sandwich Brewery were approached regarding this opportunity however, neither was able to participate.

4.6 Arlington, Texas

The Chair advises that coordination is currently underway for a reciprocal visit from Arlington, Texas to Windsor. Representatives from Arlington, Texas are proposing the visit be held in late summer or early fall.

Sandra Gebauer notes that based on discussions with the Mayor's Office, July or August may be more suitable, reminding them that the municipal elections are scheduled for October.

Moved by Councillor Renaldo Agostino, seconded by Ronnie Haidar,
That dates for the reciprocal visit by representatives from Arlington, Texas **BE CORRGINATED** with the Mayor's Office.
Carried.

Ronnie Haidar remarks that the University of Windsor is interested in being involved when the Arlington, Texas delegations visit the City of Windsor.

4.7 Proposal for Sister City Partnership between Kryvyi Rih and the City of Windsor

Moved by Saiful Bhuiyan, seconded by Councillor Renaldo Agostino,
That the Proposal for a Sister City partnership between Kryvyi Rih and the City of Windsor **BE DEFERRED** to the next meeting of the International Relations Committee.
Carried.

4.8 Polish Heritage Month in Canada

Sandra Gebauer indicates that a Ribbon Cutting ceremony and remarks by Mayor Drew Dilkens will be held on May 21, 2026, in the lobby of the 350 City Hall Square West building at 11:00 a.m.

4.9 The Polish Canadian Business and Professional Association of Windsor Annual Dinner

The Chair reports that the 31st Polish Canadian Society Business Dinner will be held on Friday, November 20, 2026, at the Dom Polski Club, 1275 Langlois, Windsor.

Moved by Councillor Renaldo Agostino, seconded by L.T. Zhao,
That **APPROVAL BE GIVEN** to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$1,000 for the purchase of a table for the 31st Polish Canadian Society Business Dinner to be held on Friday, November 20, 2026, at the Dom Polski Club, 1275 Langlois, Windsor.
Carried.

5. Communications

None

6. New Business

Confirm & Ratify E-mail Poll

That the results of the e-mal poll conducted on May 15, 2026, approving the following recommendation **BE CONFIRMED AND RATIFIED**:

(

Moved by Saiful Bhuyian, seconded by Councillor Ed Sleiman,

That **APPROVAL BE GIVEN** to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$75 for the purchase of refreshments for the May 20, 2026, meeting of the International Relations Committee.

Carried.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting to be determined.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 5:15 o'clock p.m.

Dear Mayor Drew Dilkens, Good day. My name is Yurii Krasnozhon, and I am writing to you with great respect on behalf of the City of Kryvyi Rih, Ukraine.

The leadership of Kryvyi Rih has authorized me to represent our city in matters of international cooperation and to develop new partnership relations with municipalities in Canada. In this regard, I would like to propose that you consider initiating discussions on establishing a sister-city agreement between Kryvyi Rih and Windsor. I would also like to highlight that both Kryvyi Rih and Windsor are already sister cities of Lublin, Poland. In my view, this creates a strong foundation for building trilateral cooperation and strengthening international ties among our cities. Kryvyi Rih is one of the largest industrial and cultural centers of Ukraine, known as the "Steel Heart of Ukraine." It is the longest city in Europe, stretching approximately 130 kilometers, and is also the hometown of the President of Ukraine.

The city is a major hub for mining, metallurgy, and machine-building industries, including iron ore extraction and processing enterprises, metallurgical plants, and engineering facilities. In addition, Kryvyi Rih is an important educational and scientific center. It is home to institutions such as the Academy of Mining Sciences of Ukraine, Kryvyi Rih National University, and the Research Mining Institute. Our city actively cooperates with a number of international academic institutions. We are open to developing strong, long-term, and mutually beneficial cooperation with Windsor across various fields, including economy, education, science, culture, and community initiatives.

Allow me to briefly outline my professional background. I have over 30 years of experience in politics and more than 20 years in leadership roles within local government. I was directly involved in the preparation and signing of the partnership agreement between Lublin (Poland) and Kryvyi Rih, representing our city at a session of the Lublin City Council. I have also organized humanitarian aid from Poland, Belgium, Germany, and France for Ukraine. I am confident that cooperation between Kryvyi Rih and Windsor can bring significant benefits to both sides and contribute to strengthening international relations.

I would be pleased to provide additional information about our city, including presentations, videos, and other reference materials. To get started, here are a few introductory materials regarding our city:

- **Kryvyi Rih Film:** <https://youtu.be/YQRT6FLYSoE>
- **Kryvyi Rih at War Film:** <https://youtu.be/3lQQ81MztVs>
- **Investment Platform:** <https://invest.kr.gov.ua/en>

I am also ready to discuss the possibility of arranging a meeting with the leadership of Kryvyi Rih. Thank you for your attention, and I sincerely hope for the opportunity to begin a constructive dialogue.

Yours sincerely,

Yurii Krasnozhon

Dear Members of the International Relations Committee, City of Windsor,

I am reaching out to ask for your guidance regarding a possible proposal to twin with a suburb of Paris called Bondy. To help you understand where this proposal comes from, below are some background details for some context.

My name is Jennifer Bondy, and the reason for this proposal is that my ancestors on my father's side come from Bondy/Paris, France. In the 1980s, my Uncle Joe (one of my father's brothers) completed a project to research our family tree. Thanks to his efforts (at a time when there were no digital archives or communication), we were able to trace our roots back to a man named Thomas Douaire de Bondy, who settled in New France in the mid-1600s. I am attaching a scanned copy of my uncle's detailed research showing our line of descendancy. (My father, Thomas Bondy, is #470 and I am #568 on p. 37 of the document.)

In 1996, as I was completing a year of my university degree in Brussels, Belgium, my grandfather looked up where Bondy is on a map of France and found it is a suburb just to the northeast of Paris. He asked me to try and visit and find some trace of our ancestors. I was able to visit in May 1996 but, after speaking with some officials at the city hall and a local historian, I was not able to find anything concrete. In subsequent years, other members of my extended family have also visited Bondy as a symbolic gesture to connect with our roots.

This past December, I was able to return to Bondy during a trip to Paris with my father. In the lead-up to this trip, a good friend who was born in Paris but grew up in Bondy and who now lives in Gatineau, Quebec, (we met over 20 years ago and find the coincidence of our connection to Bondy quite unique) was visiting family in the Paris area and offered to contact the city hall in Bondy to explain our visit and our connection to the area. Thanks to her efforts, we were put in contact with the Bondy Historical Association, which then hosted my father, my daughter Lily (who was studying in Belgium at the time) and myself (three generations of Bondys) for a visit to Bondy on December 24, including a tour of the downtown core and a formal visit with the Mayor of Bondy in his office. After visiting with the Mayor, the Historical Association invited us to their offices and shared with us the research they found on Thomas Douaire de Bondy and his father and grandfather. The details of their research were just published in their newsletter this spring. I am attaching a copy of the newsletter in French, and the translation I was able to do into English, to provide further context.

During the visit with the Mayor, one of the members of the historical association mentioned the possibility of a twinning of cities between Bondy and a city or town with a strong connection with the Bondy Family in Canada. Based on my Uncle Joe's research, we found that there are multiple generations in the Bondy Family line who have lived in the Windsor/Essex County area, as well as Detroit. (The initial generations settled in the area

Dear Mayor Drew Dilkens, Good day. My name is Yurii Krasnozhon, and I am writing to you with great respect on behalf of the City of Kryvyi Rih, Ukraine.

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I am also ready to discuss the possibility of arranging a meeting with the leadership of Kryvyi Rih. Thank you for your attention, and I sincerely hope for the opportunity to begin a constructive dialogue.

Yours sincerely,

Yurii Krasnozhon

before either the U.S. or Canada were founded as countries - as can be seen in the attached genealogy document.)

Given the long presence of the Bondy Family in the Windsor area, I wanted to ask for your thoughts on whether a twinning could be considered with Bondy?

Any suggestions you may have would be greatly appreciated. And if you would like to meet in person to discuss further, I will be in the Windsor area from May 22 to 24 (I currently live in the Toronto area). If this timing doesn't work, we could consider an online meeting as needed. I am also copying my cousin Stephanie Demarco on this email (her father was my Uncle Joe). She is also very interested in our family history and this possible twinning project and lives in Windsor, so would be a local contact on this.

Thank you in advance for any assistance you can provide with this possible project!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Bondy

Bondy family uses picnics to maintain ties

By Loretta Sbrocca

Special to The Star

Although Timothy Bondy died in 1945, his spirit will probably be pitching horseshoes this weekend.

Dozens of his descendants will once again gather Sunday to celebrate the annual Timothy Bondy Picnic, to be held this year at the farm of Orville McGuire on Con. 6 in Anderdon Township.

Now in its 50th year, the event is dedicated to the memory of family figurehead Timothy.

After his death, surviving relatives vowed not to let funerals become their only reason to visit each other, and thus was born a tradition.

In the past, celebrants have enjoyed activities such as a baseball game, bingo, a spaghetti-eating contest, raffles, races and a dance, with special recognition going to the oldest and youngest family members present.

In its heyday, with a guest list as high as 550, kinsfolk costumed as clowns and pirates would lead a grand parade around the picnic area, vying for the

best float award.

Another favorite was the tug-of-war, pitting city folk against their country cousins. (It wasn't until 1977 that the city men and city women finally out-tugged their rural counterparts!)

Unfortunately, the country team has dwindled in recent years, says Tom Bondy, head of this year's picnic sports committee.

Many former farmers have moved to the city and the tug-of-war has been dropped as of late.

Also, fewer children now attend, notes Leo Bondy, 82. Families are smaller these days. Leo's father and his eight siblings could have fielded their own baseball team.

Tom and Leo attribute the all-around decline in numbers to the normal passage of time; people start their own family reunions, develop other interests and many move away.

"You grow apart," Tom says "My cousins all have their own lives and we have ours. And it's hard to get together the same way that they did in those early days."

This year, the numbers may be lower but expectations remain high.

So get pumped for tug-of-war '96, says Margie Langlois, longtime committee secretary/treasurer.

"We're bringing it back for the 50th."

Timothy's line of the Bondy family can be traced to Bondy, France, where their name was Douaire.

After moving to Montreal in the 1600s, they adopted Bondy as their new surname.

In the early 1900s, Johnny Bondy purchased the land which is now Fox Glen Golf Course in McGregor. Brothers Thomas and Edward bought up the 80-hectare plot west of Johnny shortly thereafter.

Timothy Bondy was their father.

Today, Anderdon is filled with Bondy branches, such as the Sinasac, Lauzon, Burns, Dufour and Powers families, some of whom still attend the picnic.

And the town of Bondy still exists, says Leo, grandson of Thomas. His granddaughter sent him a postcard from Bondy while away on an exchange program.

24-HOUR NEWS TIP LINE:
255-5743

WINDSOR AREA NEWS

WINDSOR, LASALLE,
TECUMSEH, ST. CLAIR BEACH

FAMILY REUNION

50 years of Bondy history

Story and photo
by Chuck Sinkovitch
Special to The Star

Sharing the same name and birthday as the family's patriarch, with the youngest of all Bondys in tow, it is no surprise that Windsor resident Tim Bondy was president of this year's Bondy family reunion.

"It really gets eerie when you consider that my father was the youngest Bondy at the first one," 25-year-old Bondy said, cradling his two-week-old daughter Mackenzie in his arms.

One hundred and fifty people, some from as far as South Carolina and Toronto, gathered Sunday in Anderdon township to celebrate the 50th Bondy family reunion.

"It's really nice to see this many people here today," Bondy said after gathering for a group picture.

Family tree a forest

Tracking their family history creates more of a forest than the usual family tree. Surnames such as Sinasac, Lauzon, Burns, Dufour and Powers make up the family tree that, when plotted on paper, resembles a city road map.

In fact, it takes two one-by-three-metre boards to chart them all.

Throughout the day, both young and old gathered around the boards looking for their link to patriarch Thimus 'Timothy' Bondy, after whom the reunion is named.

The Bondy clan can be traced back to Bondy, France, where the family name was actually Douaire.

Crossing the Atlantic Ocean and set-



The 150-strong Bondy clan gathers for a group shot at their 50th consecutive family reunion

ling, in the 1600s, in what eventually became Canada, they adopted the Bondy name.

In the early 1900s, they settled in this area when one of the clan purchased land on which the Fox Glen Golf Course in McGregor now sits.

In its heyday, attendance at the reunion boasted as many as 550 people. Sites have changed several times, but they settled on the Anderdon site about six years ago because of its proximity and family atmosphere.

The site's owner, who spent the day giving youngsters wagon rides around the bush, asked that the location not be disclosed because his own family appreciates privacy.

After last year's guest list of 54 people, organizers weren't sure what to expect. During the years, numbers have dwindled as the family dispersed. Some didn't know which site they should attend, while others began to develop their own reunions.

But, thanks to the efforts of this

year's organizing crew, attendance tripled.

"We all know the second weekend in July is our reunion," the president said. "It gets around by word of mouth. I think we did a good job of that this year."

They rely on a few corporate donations and organize all kinds of events for participation during the day. From horseshoes to children's games, the day provides a well-rounded exercise regiment. Some of the family's elders gather in the site's pavilion to greet the newest family additions and to rehash history.

They all bring their own picnic baskets and coolers filled with goodies to last well into the evening, until the mosquitoes and other things that bite gather for their own daily ritual.

"This is really something," the president said, beaming at the successful event.

"I'll be happy if we can get even close to this many next year."



GUNSAN CITY, REPUBLIC OF KOREA

July 10, 2026

The Honorable Drew Dilkins
Mayor of the City of Windsor

Dear Mayor Dilkins,

Greetings. I am Kim Jae-jun, newly entrusted with the responsibility of serving as Mayor of Gunsan City.

First of all, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the valuable cooperative relationship that Gunsan City and the City of Windsor have maintained over the past 21 years, built on mutual trust and friendship.

Gunsan and Windsor share a common spirit of turning change and challenges into opportunities for growth. I believe that the friendship we have built upon these shared values and experiences is a treasured asset that holds great significance for the citizens of both our cities.

As I begin my term as Mayor, I am committed to further strengthening this meaningful relationship. In today's rapidly changing global environment, I look forward to expanding practical cooperation across a wide range of fields, including the economy, culture, and education, by sharing our experiences and strengths.

Gunsan City will continue working closely with the City of Windsor toward our shared goals of sustainable growth and the well-being of our citizens. I am committed to ensuring that the friendship between our two cities will continue to thrive for generations to come.

I wish the City of Windsor continued prosperity and happiness for all its citizens, and I sincerely hope that, built upon our longstanding trust and friendship, our two cities will continue to achieve even greater success through deeper cooperation in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

Kim, Jae-jun
Mayor of Gunsan City

	Profile of the Mayor of Gunsan City			
	Name	Kim, Jae-jun	Place of Birth	Gunsan City
	Date of Birth	12 October 1971		
Education	Graduated from the Department of Economics, Jeonbuk National University Graduated from the Graduate School of Economics, Jeonbuk National University			
Period	Major Career Highlights			
Jul. 2026 –	Mayor of Gunsan City			
May 2025 – Jun. 2025	Deputy Director of Public Relations, General Election Campaign Headquarters for Candidate Lee Jae-myung, Democratic Party of Korea, 21st Presidential Election			
Jul. 2023 – Oct. 2023	Senior Secretary for Public Relations to the Speaker of the National Assembly			
Jul. 2022 – Jul. 2023	Press Secretary to the Speaker of the National Assembly			
Jun. 2020 – Jun. 2022	Director of the Presidential Press Center (Chunchugwan), Office of the Senior Secretary for Public Communication, Presidential Secretariat			
Sep. 2018 – May 2020	Senior Administrative Officer, First Secretary's Office, Presidential Secretariat			
Jun. 2017 – Sep. 2018	Administrative Officer, First Secretary's Office, Presidential Secretariat			
Mar. 2017 – May 2017	Head of the Candidate Escort Team, General Election Campaign Headquarters for Candidate Moon Jae-in, Democratic Party of Korea, 19th Presidential Election			
May 2012 – May 2016	Legislative Aide to National Assembly Member Moon Jae-in			
Sep. 2011 – Mar. 2012	Legislative Aide to National Assembly Member Kim Jin-pyo			

From: Krzysztof Stanowski <krzysztof.stanowski@lublin.eu>
Sent: August 3, 2026 9:08 AM
To: Marignani, Angelo <amarignani@citywindsor.ca>
Subject: Thank You for Years of Friendship and Partnership

Dear Angelo, Dear Friends in Windsor,

As I retire after almost ten wonderful years leading the international cooperation of the City of Lublin, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you personally for the friendship and partnership we have built between Lublin and Windsor. Working with you has been far more than a professional responsibility—it has been a privilege, a constant source of inspiration and, above all, an opportunity to build lasting friendships across borders.

Over the years, we have shared many memorable achievements. Lublin became the European Youth Capital 2023 and was selected as the European Capital of Culture 2029. I also had the honour of representing our city within the Association of Towns Awarded the Europe Prize and the Council of Europe Committee of Experts on Intercultural Inclusion (ADI-INT). We helped create Lublin's first municipal youth space, organised successive editions of the Cross-Border Cooperation Congress as a forum for local government practitioners, and co-organised the celebrations of the 450th anniversary of the Union of Lublin and the commemoration of Lublin July 1980, marking the beginning of Poland's democratic transformation.

We expanded Lublin's international partnerships by launching new initiatives with cities and institutions across Europe, particularly in Norway, Iceland and Moldova. Together, we created innovative multi-city partnerships, established the first international youth spaces linking Chişinău, Kharkiv and Kryvyi Rih, and strengthened cooperation with the European Centre at Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, bringing together the cities of Nancy and Lublin with universities from Poland and Ukraine.

None of these achievements would have been possible without you. Thank you for your friendship, your trust, and your willingness to share ideas, experience and support. Together, we have shown that lasting partnerships between cities can truly make a difference.

We also stood together in difficult times. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we found new ways to remain connected. After Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the Lublin Social Committee for Aid to Ukraine coordinated the extraordinary efforts of residents, volunteers, NGOs, businesses and public institutions. At the same time, Lublin, together with its partner cities and friends across Western Europe, organised and delivered humanitarian assistance to Ukrainian communities affected by the war. Those efforts demonstrated the true strength of local commitment, international solidarity and cooperation.

I am equally proud that we promoted Lublin internationally through numerous initiatives, including the Lublin–Vilnius Portal, helping bring people, cities and ideas closer together.

As I retire, I leave behind an outstanding team of dedicated professionals led by my long-time Deputy Director, **Ms Marta Wójtowicz**, with whom many of you have already worked. I am confident that she and the entire team will continue to strengthen the friendships and partnerships we have built together. For all matters concerning future cooperation, please contact international@lublin.eu or marta.wojtowicz@lublin.eu. Although I am retiring, I sincerely hope this is not goodbye. I would be delighted to stay in touch, and you are always welcome to contact me at krzysztof.stanowski@gmail.com.

Thank you for your friendship, trust and partnership, and for the many unforgettable moments we have shared over the years. I wish you every success, good health and happiness, and I hope our paths will cross again.

With my warmest regards,

Krzysztof Stanowski

Krzysztof Stanowski
Dyrektor Centrum Współpracy Międzynarodowej, Urząd Miasta Lublin
Director International Cooperation Centre, Lublin Municipal Office

Dear Friends,

Please find attached the Pictorial Report of Polish Heritage Month in Windsor – May 2026.

This report highlights the many events, activities, and community celebrations that took place throughout May in recognition of Polish Heritage Month. It reflects the dedication and hard work of our volunteers, organizations, sponsors, and supporters who helped make this year's program a memorable success.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to preserving and promoting our Polish heritage.

Wishing you and your families a very Happy Canada Day!

With best regards,

Jerry Barycki



Jerry (Jerzy) Barycki

President, PCBPAW, ph. 519-256-4172

"I believe in one thing, that only a life lived for others is a life worth living."

Albert Einstein



Proud to be Canadian and Polish



POLISH HERITAGE MONTH IN CANADA

Polish Heritage Month in
Windsor, Ontario – May 2026

PICTORIAL REPORT



INFO POLONIA WINDSOR



On May 31, 2026, we proudly concluded this year's Polish Heritage Month in Canada by celebrating and sharing our rich Polish heritage in Windsor, Ontario. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all Polish community leaders, organizations, volunteers, sponsors, and supporters whose dedication and hard work made the many events and projects throughout the month possible. Thank you to everyone who generously contributed their time, talent, and resources to make Polish Heritage Month – May 2026 such a remarkable success. Together, we continue to preserve, celebrate, and promote our proud Polish heritage for future generations. We extend our special thanks to the Polish Canadian Centre Association of Windsor for covering the cost of this publication.



Thank You!





PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

Message from the Prime Minister of Canada

It is my great pleasure to extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the Polish Heritage Month flag raising ceremony.

Since 1942, Canada and Poland have built a strong and lasting friendship focused on shared values, mutual respect, and a steadfast commitment to working together in addressing global challenges. This friendship is reinforced by nearly one million Canadians of Polish heritage, whose cultural and personal connections continue to strengthen the bonds between our nations.

Polish Canadians continue every day to make significant contributions to Canada. These great Canadians are our artists, actors, athletes and cultural icons, and can be found across all areas of life and society.

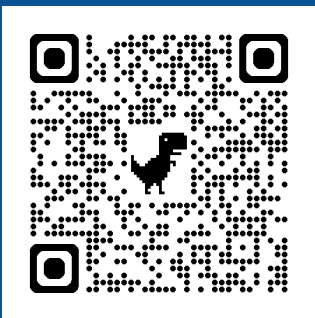
As the Polish flag is raised today, we honour these contributions and celebrate the enduring bonds between Canada and the Polish community with pride and appreciation.

Please accept my best wishes as you mark this special occasion and the beginning of the Polish Heritage Month.





Ottawa
2026



Song "Tutaj po Polsku" created by Małgorzata Holec



POLISH HERITAGE MONTH IN CANADA
WINDSOR, ONTARIO, MAY 2026
PROGRAMME

Please join us in celebrating Polish Heritage Month by displaying Polish flags on your homes throughout the month of May.

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2026
2:00 PM-7:00 PM — Polonia Table Tennis Tournament, Dom Polski, 1275 Langlois Ave., Windsor, ON. Organized by: Polonia Sports Club, contact: Pawel Bodrus — pobodrus@yahoo.ca and Adrian Olszewski — Adrian.Olszewski@gmail.com

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2026
12:00 PM — Ceremonial Raising of the Polish Flag (front of the Church), Holy Trinity Church, 1035 Ellis St. E., Windsor, ON, contact: Mariusz Zalewski — superlucius@hotmail.com
12:30 PM — Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Poland. A Thanksgiving Holy Mass for Mary's protection over our Homeland, praying for God's blessing and for the faithfulness of the Polish Nation to God, Holy Trinity Church, 1035 Ellis St. E., Windsor, ON, contact: Mariusz Zalewski — superlucius@hotmail.com
2:15 PM — Wreath-laying ceremony by Polish organization in front of the plaque commemorating Polish soldiers and the "Polish Armed Forces in the West" - exhibition prepared by Rafal Kosak, Dom Polski, 1275 Langlois Ave., Windsor, ON. Organized by Cultural and Educational Committee PPHA, contact: Dorota Zalewska — mzalewska4@gmail.com

SATURDAY, MAY 9 – SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2026
RADIO SERIES — WHAT'S UP WINDSOR (CIAM 99.1 FM), Tuesdays (Live) 8:00 PM-9:00 PM | Saturdays (Encores): 12:00 PM-1:00 PM. Organized by: Polish Canadian Arts Institute, contact: Małgorzata Holec — polcanartsinstitute@gmail.com
Tue May 5 | Sat May 9 — Roots and Identity: Over 100 Years of Polish Presence in Windsor
Tue May 12 | Sat May 16 — The May 3rd Constitution and Polish Democratic Values Today
Tue May 19 | Sat May 23 — Polish Cultural Heritage: Film, Art, and Community Expression
Tue May 26 | Sat May 30 — Polonia in Action: Intergenerational Engagement

SATURDAY, MAY 9 – SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2026
Novena through the intercession of St. John Paul II. We will recite novena prayers 10 minutes before each Holy Mass. After Holy Mass, we will sing together the hymn "Barka" together in front of the Pope's monument, Holy Trinity Church, 1035 Ellis St. E., Windsor, ON.

SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026
7:00 AM-3:00 PM — Polonia Fishing Tournament, Alexander Park, 3445 Riverside Dr E, Windsor, ON, contact: Pawel Bodrus — obodrus@yahoo.ca

SUNDAY, MAY 10, 2026
11:00 AM-4:00 PM — Mother's Day Brunch, 1:30 PM performance by "Tabry i Polskie Niedojele," Tickets \$35, Dom Polski, 1275 Langlois Ave., Windsor, ON. Organized by: Polish People's Home Association, contact: Dorota Zalewska — mzalewska4@gmail.com and Maria Ginter — mariginter@hotmail.com

THURSDAY, MAY 14 – SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2026
11:30 AM — 85th Anniversary of the Polish Army Recruiting Station in Windsor (1941-1942) — display, Ledy Library, University of Windsor, 401 Sunset Ave., Windsor, ON. Organized by: Polish-Canadian Students' & Young Professionals Association of Windsor, contact: Suzie Sawicki — sawicki.suzie@gmail.com — maria.zalewska4@gmail.com

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2026
6:00 PM — Cabaret "Kabaret pod Banka - Gawenda z Gawenda", Dom Polski, 1275 Langlois Ave., tickets \$30, available online or at the Polish Club ph 519 551 9160, contact: Halina — halinapodchubiel@windor.ca or <http://www.kabaretpodbanka.com>

MONDAY, MAY 18, 2026
7:00 PM — Thanksgiving Holy Mass for the ministry and apostolic work of St. John Paul II on the 100th anniversary of the birth of St. John Paul II. We will give thanks for his life, pontificate, and the spiritual legacy that he left to the Church and the world. After Holy Mass, we will sing together the hymn "Barka" in front of the Pope's monument, followed by a gathering in the parish hall with a presentation on the teachings of St. John Paul II and refreshments featuring "papal cream cakes."

THURSDAY, MAY 21 – SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2026
11:00 AM — 85th Anniversary of the Polish Army Recruiting Station in Windsor (1941-1942) — Display, City Hall (Lobby), Organized by: Polish-Canadian Students' & Young Professionals Association of Windsor, contact: Suzie Sawicki — sawicki.suzie@gmail.com — maria.zalewska4@gmail.com

FRIDAY, MAY 22, 2026
7:00 PM — Students and Young Professionals Social, Cuchnia 360, 58 Chatham St W, Unit 100, Windsor, ON. Organized by: Polish Canadian Students & Young Professionals, RSVP by May 15. Contact: Suzie Sawicki — sawicki.suzie@gmail.com

SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2026
2:45 PM – 5:00 PM — Bike Ride (mandatory helmets for participants under 18; Stop 26 ice cream break) — Tecumseh Arena, 12021 McNorton St, Tecumseh, ON. Organized by: Polish Scouting Association Windsor, contact: Ewa Jagielski — ewajagielski@windor.ca

SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2026
4:00 PM "Legacy of Courage – A tribute to our Polish Veterans"
Banquet – Celebration of Polish Heritage in Windsor, Dom Polski, 1275 Langlois Ave, Windsor, ON (by invitation only). Organized by Polonia Centre (Windsor) Inc., contact: Barbara Koczwar — barbajaczynski@outlook.com or Maria Kulesza — mkulesza@gmail.com Elzbieta Stepniak — elzbieta.stepniak@gmail.com

SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2026
10:00 AM-6:00 PM — Exhibition of Works by Danuta Siniarska, Dom Polski (Upper Level), 1275 Langlois Ave., Windsor, ON., contact: Dana Sniarska — dana_sniarska@yahoo.com

"Thank you" to our Sponsors and Organizers:



Committee: Stanislaw Beben (Chair), Ewa Barycka (Secretary) Małgorzata Holec (Media & Design), Barbara Koczwar, Elzbieta Stepniak, Anna Wojtal, Suzie Sawicki, Halina Ptakiewicz, Hanna Piasecka, Mariusz Zalewski, Marysia Zalewska, Dorota Zalewska, and Jerry Barycki (Advisor)

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pbochus@yahoo.ca and Adrian Olichwier — AdrianOlichwier@gmail.com



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12:30 PM — Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Poland. A Thanksgiving Holy Mass for Mary's protection over our Homeland, praying for God's blessings and for the faithfulness of the Polish Nation to God. Holy Trinity Church, 1035 Ellis St. E., Windsor, ON, contact: Mariusz Zalewski — superluigi66@hotmail.com





TB



JB



TB



2:15 PM Wreath-laying ceremony by Polish organization in front of the plaque commemorating Polish soldiers and the “Polish Armed Forces in the West” - exhibition prepared by Rafal Kosek, Dom Polski, 1275 Langlois Ave., Windsor, ON. Organized by Cultural and Educational Committee PPHA, contact: Dorota Zalewska — mzalewski4@cogeco.ca



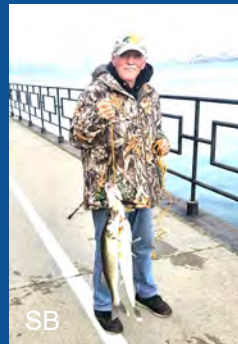
SATURDAY, MAY 9–SUNDAY, MAY 17, 202

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SUNDAY, MAY 10, 2026

11:00 AM–4:00 PM — Mother’s Day Brunch, 1:30 PM performance by „Tatry’ and „Polskie Nadzieje,” Tickets \$35. Dom Polski, 1275 Langlois Ave., Windsor, ON. Organized by: Polish Peoples’ Home Association, contact: Dorota Zalewska — mzalewski4@cogeco.ca and Maria Ginter — marysiag@hotmail.com



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MONDAY, MAY 18, 2026

7:00 PM — Thanksgiving Holy Mass for the ministry and apostolic work of St. John Paul II on the 106th anniversary of the birth of St. John Paul II, we will give thanks for his life, pontificate, and the spiritual legacy that he left to the Church and the world. After Holy Mass, we will sing together the hymn "Barka" in front of the Pope's monument, followed by a gathering in the parish hall with a presentation on the teachings of St. John Paul II and refreshments featuring "papal cream cakes."



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A tribute to the Polish veterans of World War II, presented in an exhibit prepared by Rafał Kosek.



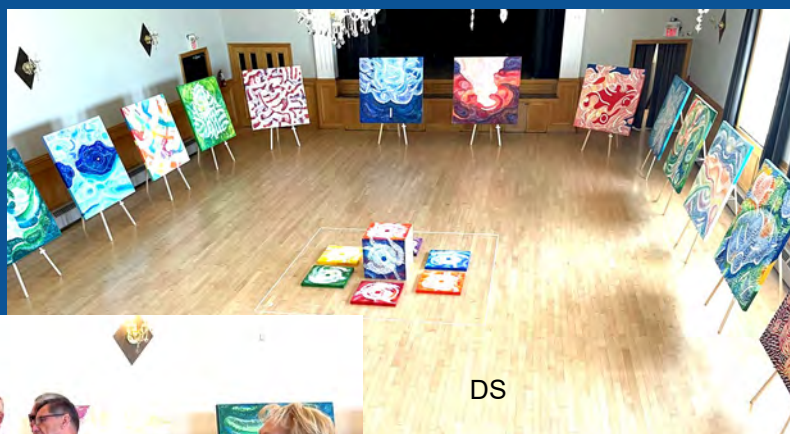
The Polish Heritage Month in Windsor, May 2026 - Awards Ceremony.





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Dom Polski (Upper Level), 1275 Langlois Ave., Windsor, ON., contact:
Dana Gnat-Siniarska — dana_gnat_siniarska@yahoo.com



DS



DS



SB

The Organizing Committee Meetings at the Polish Club, Windsor- 2026



April 29th, 2026 – Radio 7 Toronto. Interview promoting the Polish Heritage Month in Windsor. From left: Tomasz Piwowarek, Stanisław Beben, and Jerry Barycki. May 9th, 2026 - Radio What's Up Windsor?: From left: Suzie Sawicki and Malgorzata Holec.



Many thank to photograph contributors: Stanislaw Beben (SB), Tomasz Błonka (TB) and all pictures for the event on May 30th, 2026, Jerry Barycki (JB), Paweł Bochus (PB), Adian Olichwier (AO), Marysia Zalewski (MZ), and Maria Kulesza (MK).

Prepared by Jerry Barycki, 28.06.2026.

Item 5.5

Good morning, Angelo,

Enclosed is my report from the Three Seas Congress in Lublin organized by the regional Lublin voivodeship, to be shared with the IRC members as a part of our Windsor-Essex regional relations started by the IWE Trade Mission in 2019.

The Three Seas Local Government Congress gathering of political leaders, diplomats, local government representatives, academics, and business experts from the 13 member states, including delegates from 37 countries. The Congress focused on strengthening cooperation in transportation, energy security, digitalization, innovation, and economic development across the region stretching between the Baltic, Adriatic, and Black Seas.

It was a privilege and a pleasure to participate in the Congress as a delegate from Canada and as the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland in Windsor, Ontario. Regards from Poland,

Jerry (Jerzy) Barycki

The 3 Seas Local Government Congress in Lublin, Poland, 27–28 May, 2026

Day One – 27 May 2026

The 6th Three Seas Local Government Congress opened in Lublin, bringing together political leaders, diplomats, local government representatives, academics, and business experts from the 13 member states of the Three Seas Initiative, as well as delegates from 37 countries. The Congress focused on strengthening cooperation in transportation, energy security, digitalization, innovation, and economic development across the region stretching between the Baltic, Adriatic, and Black Seas.

Discussions highlighted the importance of building a safe, resilient, and prosperous North–South corridor while addressing current geopolitical and economic challenges facing Central and Eastern Europe.



INFO POLONIA WINDSOR



The first day concluded with a spectacular concert that received enthusiastic applause and a standing ovation from participants.



Day Two – 28 May 2026

The final day featured a series of engaging panels dedicated to regional cooperation, innovation, investment, and the future development of the Three Seas region. A particularly important highlight was the signing of an agreement between the Marshal's Office of the Lubelskie Voivodeship and several universities from the Lublin region aimed at strengthening cooperation in advanced technologies, including the development of quantum computing initiatives and research capacity. This agreement marked an important step toward positioning Lublin as a growing center of scientific and technological innovation.

The Congress once again demonstrated the growing role of local governments, universities, and business leaders in shaping international partnerships and promoting economic growth throughout Central and Eastern Europe. As the event concluded, participants left Lublin with new ideas, stronger partnerships, and a renewed commitment to regional cooperation.





It was a privilege and a pleasure to participate in the Congress as a delegate from Canada and as the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland in Windsor, Ontario. Having been involved in establishing the twin-city partnership between Windsor and Lublin in 2000, the Congress provided an excellent opportunity to strengthen existing relationships and build new bridges between Canada and Poland in the fields of business, education, innovation, and cultural cooperation.



On personal note: meeting individual leaders from government, business, science, youth organizations, Ukraine, and the diplomatic community provided a unique opportunity to build new international bridges and foster partnerships that will contribute to future cooperation and mutual prosperity.

prepared by Jerry Barycki, 29.05.2026.