

**AGENDA**  
**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**  
meeting held Wednesday, December 17, 2025  
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 September 5, 2025– ***attached***

**4. Business Items**

- 4.1** That the results of the e-mail poll conducted on July 24, 2025, approving the following recommendation **BE CONFIRMED AND RATIFIED:**

That **APPROVAL BE GIVEN** to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$10,000 for a delegation of ten (10) to visit the City of Windsor on August 9 – 12, 2025.

- 4.2** Final Minutes of the working session that took place in Mannheim during Councillor Angelo Marignani and Jerry Barycki's visit. (attached)  
Committee direction required.
- 4.3** Letter from the Mayor of Mannheim to Mayor Dilkens. (attached)
- 4.4** Pictorial Report from the 30<sup>th</sup> Polish Canadian Business Professional Association of Windsor Dinner and the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the Windsor Lublin Twinning. (attached)
- 4.5** Letter of appreciation from Mayor Kang of Gunsan to Mayor Dilkens. (attached)

- 4.6** Letter of appreciation from Mayor Kang of Gunsan to Councillor Angelo Marignani. (attached)
- 4.7** Twin City proposal from Shkodra, Albania and Ferizaj, Kosovo. (attached) This item requires Committee direction.
- 4.8** Friendship City proposal from San Juan del Rio, Queretaro, Mexico
- 4.9** Request from Fujisawa for Sister-City Awards for the male and female winners of the Shonan Fujisawa City Marathon - Committee direction required.
- 5. New Business**
- 6. Date of Next Meeting**
- 7. Adjournment**

## **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

Meeting held September 5, 2025

A meeting of the International Relations Committee is held this day commencing at 1:30 o'clock p.m. in Room 139, 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 (via Zoom)  
Jerry Barycki  
Ronnie Haidar (via Zoom)

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

L.T. Zhao

### ***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 1:35 o'clock p.m. and the Committee considers the Agenda being Schedule:" A", attached hereto, matters which are dealt with as follows:

### **2. Declarations of Conflict**

None disclosed.

### **3. Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Fred Francis, seconded by Councillor Renaldo Agostino,  
That the minutes of the International Relations Committee of its meeting held May 21, 2025, **BE ADOPTED** as presented.  
Carried.

#### **4. Business Items**

##### **4.1 Draft Agreement with the Kupiansk City Military Administration (Kharkiv Region, Ukraine)**

In response to a question asked by Councillor Fred Francis regarding how this agreement differentiates from a Sister City Agreement, Sandra Gebauer explains this is a symbolic agreement with no lasting commitments and is meant to show our support with the City of Ukraine and the City of Windsor.

Moved by Councillor Fred Francis, seconded by Councillor Renaldo Agostino,  
That the agreement with the Kupiansk City Military Administration (Kharkiv Region, Ukraine) **BE APPROVED**.  
Carried.

##### **4.2 Recent visit of the Chair and Jerry Barycki to our Sister Cities Mannheim, Germany and Lublin, Poland**

The Chair provides the following remarks relating to the recent visit to Mannheim, Germany and Lublin, Poland:

- The City of Mannheim demonstrated interest in collaboration with the City of Windsor in terms of our environmental department, academics and sports teams.
- There was a meeting with the Mayor of the City of Mannheim, and an exchange of gifts along with a presentation in front of their Council.
- The places that they visited highlighted where Mannheim and Europe are moving in the tech sector and the social sector. They also saw the repurposing of old industrial areas into new factories and facilities.
- The City of Mannheim is interested in further developing their relationship with the City of Windsor, i.e. academic student exchange.

Jerry Barycki provides an overview of the recent visit to Lublin, Poland as follows:

- The City of Mannheim and Lublin are both keen in understanding the political situation and are eager to work on these areas.
- The City of Lublin is very active in terms of culture.
- The City of Lublin opened the doors to Ukraine and organized centres to help the people.
- The business centre in Lublin was impressive along with the airport which accommodates very large aircraft.

The Chair notes that the City of Mannheim is keen on developing collaborations that are in tune with the City of Windsor's industry and education along with sports. He adds that the City of Lublin is more focused on the war due to being on the main gateway to Europe. He remarks that the City of Lublin was impressive in terms of their academics.



Ronnie Haidar advises that the University of Windsor has a student exchange program with the University of Mannheim. He adds that he will be representing the University of Windsor at the the European Conference of Argumentation to be held in two weeks in Warsaw, Poland.

Moved by Councillor Ed Sleiman, seconded by Councillor Renaldo Agostino,  
That the update regarding the recent visit to Mannheim, Germany and Lublin, Poland by Councillor Angelo Marignani, Chair and Jerry Barycki **BE RECEIVED.**  
Carried.

#### **4.3 Children's Art Exhibition**

Sandra Gebauer advises that the Children's Art Exhibition will be displayed at Devonshire Mall from October 6, 2025, to October 13, 2025. This will be followed by a display at Art Windsor Essex; however, the dates have not been confirmed. The Media Release for calls for local participation will be sent out today. She adds that this information will also be shared with the school boards.

### **5. Confirm and Ratify E-mail Poll**

Sandra Gebauer advises that this will be first step in exploring a Friendship City relationship with Arlington, Texas. She remarks that the City of Arlington is eager to welcome a delegation from the City of Windsor to visit possibly in October 2025. The City of Arlington has also requested representation from Economic Development and Tourism. She notes Arlington is also interested in the City of Windsor's environmental process and initiatives as well as representation from education, i.e. University of Windsor and St. Clair College.

In response to a question asked by Councillor Ed Sleiman, regarding the industries in Arlington, the Chair responds they have automotive (General Motors) and is located next to two large metropolises - Dallas and Fort Worth, Texas.

Councillor Fred Francis advises that the World Cup will be held in the summer of 2026 to be hosted by Mexico, Canada and the United States and one of the venues will be Arlington, Texas. This is an opportunity to welcome the world and countries that host some of our Sister Cities.

The Chair suggests October 16, 17 and 18 as possible dates to visit Arlington. Discussion ensues regarding representation from the City of Windsor and other organizations along with those who will attend from the IRC.

In response to a question asked by the Chair regarding if any members wish to be part of the delegation going to Arlington, Councillor Renaldo Agostino, Ronnie Haidar and the Chair respond affirmatively. It is also suggested that an invitation be extended to

Mayor Dilkens; a representative from Invest Windsor Essex as well as a staff representative from the city for a total delegation of 6.

That the results of the e-mail poll conducted on July 2, 2025 approving the following recommendation **BE CONFIRMED AND RATIFIED:**

Moved by Councillor Fred Francis, seconded by Councillor Renald Agostino,

That the International Relations Committee **MOVE FORWARD** with scheduling reciprocal site visits with Arlington, Texas, as a starting point for exploring a potential partnership; and,

That the delegations **INCLUDE** representation from the Committee as well as representation from Tourism and Economic Development; and,

That the Committee **APPROVE** a budget in the upset amount of \$15,000 to support costs associated with both the incoming and outgoing delegations.

Carried.

## 6. Communications

### 6.1 Letter to Mayor Drew Dilkens regarding the release of "A look at Hirska Community: Recommendations for Occupied Territories"

Moved by Councillor Fred Francis, seconded by Councillor Renaldo Agostino,  
That the letter to Mayor Drew Dilkens regarding the release of "A look at Hirska Community: Recommendations for Occupied Territories" **BE RECEIVED.**  
Carried.

### 6.2 Letter to Mayor Kang, Im June from Mayor Dilkens inviting a delegation from Gunsan, South Korea to visit the City of Windsor

Sandra Gebauer advises that a cancellation notice was received from Gunsan, South Korea and adds that the visit to the City of Windsor will be rescheduled.

Moved by Councillor Fred Francis, seconded by Councillor Renaldo Agostino,  
That the letter to Mayor Kang, Im June from Mayor Dilkens inviting a delegation from Gunsan, South Korea to visit the City of Windsor **BE RECEIVED.**  
Carried.

### 6.3 Letter to Mayor Christian Specht, Stadt Mannheim from Mayor Dilkens thanking Mannheim for accepting the delegation from the City of Windsor

Moved by Councillor Fred Francis, seconded by Councillor Ed Sleiman,  
That the letter to Mayor Christian Specht, Stadt Mannheim from Mayor Dilkens thanking Mannheim for accepting the delegation from the City of Windsor **BE RECEIVED.**

Carried.

#### **6.4 Polish Heritage Month in Canada – Pictorial Report**

Jerry Barycki advises that a celebration and flag raising for the Polish Heritage Month was held in front of Holy Trinity Parish, with many people sharing in this special occasion. He states that the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Lublin/Windsor was proudly displayed at City Hall and he expresses his appreciation to the city.

Moved by Councillor Ed Sleiman, seconded by Councillor Fred Francis,  
That the update by Jerry Barycki regarding Polish Heritage Month in Canada **BE RECEIVED.**  
Carried.

#### **7. New Business**

The Chair advises that he received a call from the Masonic Lodge of Windsor who stated that there are Masonic Lodges located in our twin cities. He asks if the IRC would be interested in having an association with Masonic Lodge. Councillor Renaldo Agostino responds that the IRC represents everyone, and all groups and it may not be good policy.

Jerry Barycki refers to Invest Windsor Essex and proposes inviting representatives to a meeting of the IRC for a discussion on how they support international relations and trade. The Chair asks if Gordon Orr, CEO of Tourism Windsor Essex, Pelee Island and CEO Invest Windsor Essex can be invited to attend the next IRC meeting to discuss collaborations economically with our Twin Cities and what strategies can be deployed. It is generally agreed that Gordon Orr will be invited to attend the next meeting of the IRC.

#### **8. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on a date to be determined in November 2025.

#### **9. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

## Working Session “Future Partnership Windsor-Mannheim”

Meeting held July 23, 2025

A working session between the municipalities of Windsor and Mannheim was held from 12:00 until 1:50 pm. The objective was to discuss future opportunities to strengthening ties in the 45-years long twin city relationship, especially with a view to expanding local businesses and fostering economic development in both cities.

### Participants:

- Mannheim:
  - Mayor Christian Specht
  - Ms. Christiane Ram, Head of Department, Economic and Structural Development (ESD)
  - Ms. Cathérine Lisa Schleicher, Head of International Affairs Department
  - Mr. Christian Sommer, Managing Director NEXT Mannheim
  - Ms. Miray Barlak, City Management Cluster, ESD
  - Mr. Matthias Henel, Social Economy Cluster, ESD
  - Ms. Anna Schmidt, Green Industries Cluster, ESD
  - Mr. Nico Antes, ESD
  - Ms. Eva-Maria Markutzik and Ms. Fiona Preisler, NextMannheim
  - Ms. Emily Hruban and Ms. Corinna Thomassik, International Affairs Department (IA MA)
- Windsor:
  - Councilor Angelo Marignani, International Relations Committee (Chair)
  - Mr. Jerry Barycki, International Relations Committee (Member), Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland in Windsor

### 1. Welcome, Mayor Christian Specht

Mayor Specht welcomed guests and emphasized the importance of intensifying economic cooperation between Windsor and Mannheim. Councilor Marignani expressed his support and noted that there are many similarities between Mannheim and Windsor, e.g. growing green industry sector, strong footprint in chemical and automotive industry. Further details on the economic landscape of Mannheim under no. 4-8 below and in supporting slide deck. Further details on Windsor under no. 3 below.

Jerry Barycki explained the structure of Windsor’s International Committee and spoke about the importance of people-to-people connections. Both delegation members from Windsor welcomed the opportunity to network during their stay in Mannheim from July 22 until July 24.

## 2. Introduction to Mannheim's Startup Ecosystem (with supporting slide deck), Christian Sommer

NEXT Mannheim operates as a subsidiary of the Municipality of Mannheim with P&L responsibility for eight start-up centers facilitating approx. 300 start-ups. It oversees the start-up ecosystem in Mannheim from a strategic perspective and manages a large portfolio of start-up support programs and conferences. Funding is partially based on EU subsidy grants (accelerating transformation of "rust belt cities"). Around 750 enterprises have come out of the ecosystem in the last 20 years. 35,000 square meters of office space are usually fully booked.

Most start-ups in the ecosystem are B2B industry-focused with med tech and green tech on the rise. Creative industries and fashion and accessories B2C are also sectors of importance. Female entrepreneurship is being supported through specific support resources and networks (e.g. annual international conference for female IT entrepreneurs). TUMO facilities offer digital training and education program tailored for school children, mentorship being provided by seasoned start-up owners.

<b>POTENTIAL FIELDS OF COLLABORATION</b> regarding start-ups / early stage B2B / creative industries:	<b>NEXT STEPS</b> regarding start-ups / early stage B2B / creative industries:
1. Exchange between twin cities' start-up acceleration centers, e.g. Web Business Center and Downtown Accelerator, also to engage in platform match-making in the respective other city	1. <b>Councilor Marignani</b> agrees to support the connection with Windsor start-up acceleration centers.  IA MA forwarded Christian's previous emails to Web Business Center and Downtown Accelerator to Sandra Gebauer from Windsor municipality on July 28 and highlighted interest of NEXT MA to get connected.
2. Tech Connect meetup at Epic Center in Windsor in October (Oktoberfest theme): invitation of selected Mannheim start-ups routed from Windsor through NEXT Mannheim  Mannheim Guitar Summit (Mannheim is a UNESCO City of Music)/ Windsor Festival in September: invitation of twin cities' artists or artistic work pieces to the respective events to strengthen both cultural and creative industry exchange	2. <b>IA MA</b> (Thomassik/Hruban) will liaise with Windsor municipality on exchange opportunities and potential invitees re: Tech Connect in October, Mannheim Guitar Summit and Windsor Festival in September.

<p>3. Accelerator program for international startups (Up2B Market Discovery): The program takes place once a year and is aimed at international B2B tech startups considering entering the German market (particularly in Baden-Württemberg and the Rhine-Neckar region).  <a href="https://www.up2b.io/marketdiscovery">https://www.up2b.io/marketdiscovery</a></p>	<p><b>3. Windsor municipality</b> (Sandra Gebauer) may locally disseminate information provided on Up2B Market Discovery and gauge interest.</p>
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### 3. Recent economic and structural developments in city of Windsor, Councilor Angelo Marignani

Councillor Marignani highlights the importance for Windsor of trade with Detroit with the daily trade volume amounting to 390 million dollars. Against the backdrop of rapidly increasing cross-border trade barriers and US tariff threats, Canada is now looking to Mannheim and partners elsewhere to intensify relationships. Another twin city connection of Windsor, Gunsan in South Korea, has evolved into a strong business partnership: 300-million-dollar investment in the electric vehicle (EV) battery sector started with a meeting between partner cities (for further background on this topic: <https://uclg-aspac.org/gunsan-windsor-city-towards-practical-exchanges-with-the-economic-cooperation/>).

Canada's first large-scale EV battery plant, one of the largest in North America, is currently being developed in Windsor (NextStar Energy Plant) and is expected to reach full production end of 2025. The facility is being operated as a Joint Venture between Stellantis (Chrysler, whose Canadian division is headquartered in Windsor) and LG Energy Solution (LG has a company office in the Polish twin city of Windsor Lublin). The NextStar batteries were originally destined for EVs, but now in addition to EV batteries, the plant will also produce power walls for storing energy from solar panels and probably other non-automotive applications. There are other companies that are expanding and investing in Windsor Essex region as a result of the NextStar investment.

Angelo Marignani responds to concerns about brown outs that are often being raised along with the building of a battery plant. Windsor built a generator in a former Henry Ford factory to prevent brown outs. Furthermore, Canada has lots of green energy production based on local proximity to Niagara Falls (hydro-electricity, high capacity of installed wind mills etc.. It is noted that energy production comes with different challenges in Germany.

Windsor accommodates the largest number of greenhouses in Canada. 85% of products are shipped to the US. However, key stakeholders are now looking to other areas of the world, already striking deals with Korea, Japan and elsewhere. Europe has also become a critical trade partner with a lot of opportunities still remaining untapped. Recently, the Windsor / Essex region is working on developing greenhouses that produce biomass materials following circular economy principles. The produce from this business model is not meant for human consumption.

Overall, a lot of similarities and connections exist between Windsor and Mannheim that can help evolve the cities' relationship, e.g. collaboration between Stellantis and BASF (for example on the development of a material used in Jeep Grand Cherokees). Jerry Barycki

notes that Alberta and Ontario are working together to build an LNG pipeline, which might send LNG to Europe.

The Windsor delegation again puts emphasis on developing personal relationships in international work for the city.

**4. Introduction to Economic and Structural Development Initiatives in Mannheim (with supporting slide deck), Christiane Ram**

Infrastructure of Mannheim makes it an appealing place to do business, e.g. second largest inland port in Germany, second largest freight-switching yard in Germany and Europe, 30 minutes by train/car from Frankfurt airport.

Many large companies are invested in the area: Roche, Daimler (bus production), John Deere, ABB, BASF. They are drawing from a diverse workforce (people from 170 nations call Mannheim their home) and a large pool of highly educated young talents (29,000 students study at several different educational institutions).

Mannheim bundles municipal knowledge and competencies around environmental sustainability in one platform: Local Green Deal – aims to achieve climate-neutrality by 2030.

ESD dispatched a junior employee, Nico Antes, to Invest in Windsor Essex in fall last year. Thanks to the perceived benefits of this work assignment in both twin cities, a second candidate, Simon Voelkel, will be supporting Wendy Stark from Invest in Windsor Essex through September / October 2025. IA MA are facilitating the municipal exchange initiative.

**5. Deep-Dive: Green Industry Cluster (with supporting slide deck), Anna Schmidt**

- Mission: to attract green tech investments in Mannheim, Heidelberg and adjacent areas in Rhine-Neckar region, enable green tech innovation, and create new jobs in the region
- Domains: energy efficiency, sustainable mobility, circular economy and more
- Range of services: try to act as enablers of innovation, organize network meetings, and create visibility for sector, for example trade fair appearances
- BASF agriculture / food and Südzucker (using byproducts from sugar production) could be points of interest for a future delegation visit from Windsor

**6. Deep-Dive: Social Economy Cluster (with supporting slide deck), Matthias Henel**

- Mission: to help social enterprises in Mannheim achieve economic value creation and solve societal problems while creating a positive impact on labor market
- Challenging proposition: Impact orientation is often more important than profit orientation BUT economic efficiency is crucial for further growth and long-term survival
- Range of services: access to local, region, national and EU networks, calling attention to social economy enterprises, events for networking, consultancy

**7. Deep-Dive: City Management Cluster (with supporting slide deck), Miray Barlak**

- Mission: to maintain and even enhance attractiveness of city center in Mannheim for shop owners and customers
- Range of services: generate insights into quality of experience in city center, manage initiatives for quality increase, support good leasing practices, manage stakeholder networks.

**8. Deep-Dive: Smart Industries Cluster (with supporting slide deck), Christiane Ram**

- Mission: to boost transformation of the manufacturing landscape on way toward digitalization
- Range of services: access to networks, fostering knowledge exchange amongst companies at different stages of digitalization and of different industry sectors

<b>POTENTIAL FIELDS OF COLLABORATION</b> regarding economic development and facilitating investment opportunities	<b>NEXT STEPS</b> regarding economic development and facilitating investment opportunities:
<p>4. Mannheim has no significant EV battery production footprint, however, battery development and production centers exist for larger vehicles such as busses and trucks (e.g. Daimler Truck).</p> <p>Also, Mannheim needs to expand charging infrastructure to achieve climate neutrality. Exchange with Windsor on supercharging infrastructure and grid management would be valuable, e.g. how to run a local grid and transform manufacturing based on green energy sources.</p> <p>In the context of local transit, common challenges in both cities arise along the entire value chain: increase environmental sustainability of bus fleets (e.g. green tech appliances for the busses itself), establish and manage depots for green busses (e.g. charging facilities operating 24/7), manage bus systems, and address energy grid issues. Area lends itself to further collaboration between Windsor and Mannheim.</p>	<p>4. <b>IA MA</b> (Thomassik/Hruban) will liaise with ESD in Mannheim and counterparts in Windsor on the topics of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• scaling up local battery production (Mannheim focusing on busses and trucks)</li> <li>• charging and grid infrastructure</li> </ul> <p>‘Make public inner-city transport green’ might be an area where joint ideas and projects could come into existence, both regarding green tech applications and infrastructure.</p>
<p>5. Anna Schmidt reports on a newly envisaged project of the Green Energy Cluster with a focus on circular economy.</p> <p>It is intended to conduct an analysis of waste and possibilities for re-usage with the help of regional companies and project partners.</p> <p>She would be interested in having contacts in Windsor and larger Canada to hear about what they are doing in this field (e.g. greenhouse circular economy projects).</p>	<p>5. <b>Councilor Marignani</b> offers to organize a visit of Essex County Greenhouses if Mannheim plans a delegation visit to Windsor.</p> <p>In the meantime, <b>IA MA</b> will liaise with Windsor to put Anna Schmidt from Green Industry Cluster virtually in touch with Windsor contacts.</p>



<p>6. The Social Entrepreneurship Cluster and several external project partners are exploring applying for EU funding for a project dealing with co-creation of neighborhoods (bottom-up social entrepreneurship). Matthias Henel is interested in discussing this proposal with colleagues in Windsor as project regulations allow to include a Canadian partner.</p> <p>For the grant application, the city is working with several other cities in Europe, e.g. Italy, Finland, Slovenia, Austria (tbc) and Belgium (tbc).</p> <p>The deadline for application submission is mid-November 2025. Details about the call here: <a href="#">EU Funding &amp; Tenders Portal</a>.*</p>	<p>6. <b>Councilor Marignani</b> suggests that he make a connection between Mannheim and the grant application experts at City Hall in Windsor to discuss the EU project call on social entrepreneurship.</p>
<p>7. Windsor delegation note that there is a BASF production facility in Windsor. Information available here:  <a href="https://www.basf.com/dam/jcr:7b9b1f10-1264-3165-a256-e22447a032f7/basf/www/ca/documents/en/about-us/locations/fact-sheets-2024/Fact%20Sheet_Windsor_2024_FINAL.pdf">https://www.basf.com/dam/jcr:7b9b1f10-1264-3165-a256-e22447a032f7/basf/www/ca/documents/en/about-us/locations/fact-sheets-2024/Fact%20Sheet_Windsor_2024_FINAL.pdf</a></p>	<p>7. <b>ESD</b> to further explore how the BASF connection to Windsor might contribute to fostering deeper relationships with our twin city.</p> <p>If possible, Simon Voelkel from Mannheim ESD could visit the BASF plant while staying in Windsor in fall.</p>

\*<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-NEB-2025-01-BUSINESS-02?order=DESC&pageNumber=1&pageSize=10&sortBy=startDate&keywords=HORIZON-NEB-2025-01-BUSINESS-02&isExactMatch=true&status=31094502,31094501&programmePeriod=2021%20-%202027&frameworkProgramme=43108390>

## 9. Wrap-up

Mayor Specht suggests that Mannheim could act as a 'Canadian hub' in Germany or even Europe especially given the favorable infrastructure and experience in dealing with international representatives from politics, business and civil society. It might be advantageous to Canadian stakeholders to rely on a logistics hub in Mannheim to pursue expansion with efficiency and certain standards.

IA MA reports that the German-Canadian Association is interested in a German-Canadian conference / cooperation.

Both cities will work together to decide which points for cooperation should be explored further. It is envisaged to create more frequent opportunities for exchange on a virtual basis from fall 2025. Mannheim has a strong interest in sending a delegation to Windsor for deeper and more concrete in-person exchange.

# STADT MANNHEIM<sup>2</sup>

**Der Oberbürgermeister**

STADT MANNHEIM | Der Oberbürgermeister | Postfach 10 30 51 | 68030 Mannheim

Mr. Drew Dilkens  
Mayor of Windsor  
350 City Hall Square West, Suite 510  
Windsor, Ontario N9A 6R1  
Canada

September 3, 2025

Dear Mayor Dilkens,

Thank you for your letter and your warm invitation to Windsor. I would be delighted to visit your beautiful city and discuss how we can continue to deepen our partnership in the coming years.

While I was sorry that your schedule did not allow you to travel to Mannheim with Windsor's International Relations Committee delegation in July, I can report that we had very fruitful discussions with Councillor Marignani and Mr. Barycki. I was very impressed with everything that they presented about Windsor, especially regarding your new battery plant. Both Councillor Marignani and Mr. Barycki were wonderful ambassadors for your city and made a very positive impression on our City Council members, business community, and civil society.

In our conversations with Councillor Marignani and Mr. Barycki, we were able to find many potential avenues for cooperation. You may refer to the minutes attached for the full scope of topics discussed. I am especially interested in exploring how we might be able to work together on building and maintaining a sustainable electric charging and grid infrastructure (e.g. in the context of local public transportation). Also, the exchange between digital and creative start-up ecosystems in our cities may fuel further economic growth and business innovation.

I would suggest that we find a date in 2026 for my visit. Ms Hruban and Ms Thomassik from the International Affairs Department will be in touch with your team about the details. I am looking forward to seeing you in person in Windsor next year. In the meantime, I am certain that our cities will be able to build on the productive conversations we had in Mannheim in July to further strengthen our partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Specht', with a stylized, cursive script.

Christian Specht

# CELEBRATING THE 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



OF THE POLISH-CANADIAN BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WINDSOR



AND THE 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE TWINNING OF  
THE CITY OF WINDSOR WITH THE CITY OF LUBLIN, POLAND



**ANNUAL BUSINESS DINNER 2025: PICTORIAL REPORT**

THE POLISH-CANADIAN BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL  
ASSOCIATION OF WINDSOR

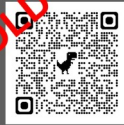


## PROGRAMME



Krzysztof Żuk

Mayor of Lublin, Poland - Keynote Speaker



Annual Polish-Canadian Society Business Dinner

5:30 p.m. on Friday, November 14, 2025, at the Giovanni Caboto Club,  
2175 Parent Avenue, Windsor, Ontario.

We were truly delighted to welcome everyone to our sold-out event on November 14, 2025, as we celebrated two significant milestones: the 30th anniversary of the Polish-Canadian Business and Professional Association of Windsor and the 25th anniversary of the Windsor–Lublin partnership. Together, we continue to strengthen our community — proud of our Polish heritage and proud to be Canadians, in the “True North strong and free”. Thank you all for your continued support, for sharing in our celebrations, and for your thoughtful comments (Jerry Barycki).



The evening was hosted by long-time PCBPAW president Jerzy (Jerry) Barycki, who welcomed guests from Poland, Canada, and the United States and conveyed greetings from the Polish Ambassador to Canada, Witold Dzielski. Speeches were delivered by Canadian Polish Congress President, Dominik Roszak, representatives of federal and provincial governments, and local dignitaries, all emphasizing the contribution of Polonia to Canada's development and the success of the Windsor–Lublin partnership as a model of international cooperation (Margaret Holec).



## Introductions, Greetings and Prayer



Jerry Barycki, President, PCBPAW



Ania Barycka, M.C.



Dominik Roszak, President, CPC



Jordan Katz, Chief of Staff,  
Kathy Borrelli, M.P. (W-T-L)



Harb Gill, M.P. (W-W)



Andrew Dowie, M.P.P., (W-T)



Drew Dilkens, Mayor of Windsor



Dr. Saad Jasim, President, MCC



Sister Dorota Sroka (prayer)

Konrad Wcislo, Councillor of Lublin, presented greetings and awarded the Union of Lublin Medal to PCBPAW from Mayor of Lublin, Krzysztof Żuk.





A highlight of the evening was the presentation of Ignacy Jan Paderewski Medals of the Canadian Polish Congress to distinguished politicians and community leaders from Windsor, as well as PCBPAAW Mini-Medals to long-time supporters and promoters of Polish culture (Margaret Holec).

Presentation of the Ignacy Jan Paderewski Medal of the Canadian Polish Congress by Dominik Roszak, President, CPC, to:



Family of Józef Palimąka Joe Comartin, fm. M.P., W-T



Brian Masse, fm. M.P., W-W Drew Dilkins, Mayor of Windsor



Ewa Barycka, President, CPC,  
Windsor Br., accompanied by An-  
drzej Felinczak, Chair of the CPC

Frank Simpson, Director,  
PCBPAAW





Presentation of the Mini-Medal of the Polish-Canadian Business and Professional Association of Windsor to various individuals and institutions with appreciation for support to:



VIPs



Sponsors



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## Tables with our guests





Particular attention was given to the strong presence of Polonia youth, especially members of the Polish-Canadian students' organization and young professionals from Windsor – the Association's natural successors. The gala was held in a sold-out hall and concluded with a rendition of the song "Lublin–Windsor" and a lively performance of the Lubin Dance by the "Tatry" Song and Dance Ensemble (Margaret Holec).



Our VIPs with young Polonia leaders.

## The "Tatry" Song and Dance Ensemble- Lubin Dance





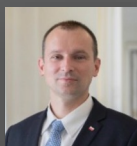






## YouTube Links and Programme

### Links to video greetings:



Witold Dzielski, Ambassador of Poland to Canada

<https://youtu.be/KEzYJFne0wg>



Krzysztof Żuk, Mayor of Lublin

<https://youtu.be/apVWvP661wE>

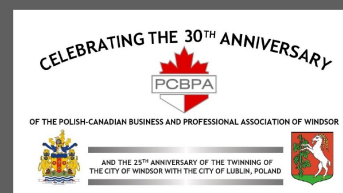


Andrzej Pruszkowski, fmr. Mayor of Lublin

<https://youtu.be/t8UmqB8XPgY>

Most of the pictures were taken by John Liviero, and some of them by Jerry Barycki. The text was prepared by Jerry Barycki and Margaret Holec. The report was compiled by Jerry Barycki, 27.11.2025 - FINAL

THE POLISH-CANADIAN BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL  
ASSOCIATION OF WINDSOR



## PROGRAMME



Krzysztof Żuk  
Mayor of Lublin, Poland - Keynote Speaker



### Annual Polish-Canadian Society Business Dinner

5:30 p.m. on Friday, November 14, 2025, at the Giovanni Caboto Club,  
2175 Parent Avenue, Windsor, Ontario.





## GUNSAN CITY

시민이 함께하는  
자람도시 군산

November 21, 2025

The Honorable Drew Dilkens  
Mayor of the City of Windsor

Dear Mr. Mayor:

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the sister-city relationship between Gunsan City and the City of Windsor, I wish to extend my profound gratitude for your gracious invitation and for the warm and considerate hospitality extended to our delegation throughout our visit.

It was truly inspiring for all members of our delegation to witness firsthand the dedication and leadership you have demonstrated in your efforts to enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Windsor. The experience left a deep and lasting impression on us.

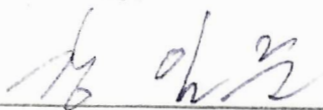
I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to you, the Chair of the International Relations Committee, and all officials who extended thoughtful support and meticulous care to our delegation during our stay.

Gunsan and Windsor—two cities that share remarkably similar economic and industrial profiles—have taken an important step forward with the signing of our new Memorandum of Agreement on International Exchange and Cooperation. I am confident that this milestone will serve as a solid foundation for even closer and more substantive collaboration in the years ahead.

Gunsan City is also making continuous efforts across a wide range of sectors, including the economy and culture, to build a better future for our citizens. I sincerely hope that you will visit Gunsan again in the near future and witness the progress our city has made since your last visit.

May you, Mr. Mayor, and the citizens of Windsor enjoy good health, continued prosperity, and lasting success. I look forward to advancing our friendship and cooperation for many more years to come.

Sincerely,



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**Im June Kang**

**Mayor of Gunsan City**



## GUNSAN CITY

시민이 함께하는  
자립도시 군산

November 21, 2025

Councillor Angelo Marignani  
Chair of International Relations Committee of the City of Windsor

Dear Councillor Marignani:

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the warm hospitality extended to the Gunsan City delegation during our recent visit to the City of Windsor.

Throughout our stay, the thoughtful care and consideration you showed allowed us to truly feel the warmth and generosity of the people of Windsor.

Gunsan is a vibrant city blessed with the harmony of beautiful seas, islands, and fields, as well as a rich culinary and cultural heritage. It is also a lively city where festivals—such as the Time-Travel Festival—bring great energy and character to the community.

I sincerely hope that you will visit Gunsan in the near future and experience its unique charm, its cuisine and culture, and the industrial landscape that so closely resembles that of Windsor.

I wish you, the members of the International Relations Committee, and the citizens of Windsor continued good health, prosperity, and lasting advancement.

Sincerely,

**Im June Kang**

**Mayor of Gunsan City**