

Canada-Poland Chamber of Commerce

Excellence Awards

Gala

Recognizing the Members
of Canada-Poland Chamber of
Commerce and
Individual Businesses and Professionals from
Polish Community in Canada and among
Chamber Members for Their
Outstanding Contribution
to the Canadian Economy



CLUBHOUSE EVENTSPACE
195 GALAXY BLVD., ETOBICOKE, ON M9W 6R7

FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2023

Excellence Awards Gala 2023

7:00 PM Cocktails Reception

7:45 PM Welcome by the Masters of the Ceremony
- **Anna Cyzon and Wojciech Sniegowski**

Remarks by **Waldemar Halek**, President,
Canada-Poland Chamber of Commerce

7:50 PM Remarks by Special Guests

Keynote Speaker - **prof. Tomasz Grodzki**, Marshal of
the Senate, Republic of Poland

Lianne Rood, Member of Parliament Lambton-Kent
Middlesex, Shadow Minister for Federal Economic
Development Agency for Eastern, Central and Southern Ontario

Hon. Kinga Surma, Member of Provincial Parliament
Etobicoke Centre, Minister of Infrastructure, Ontario Government

Natalia Kusendova-Bashta, Member of Provincial Parliament
Mississauga Centre, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of
Francophone Affairs, Ontario Government

Bonnie Crombie, Mayor Mississauga

Ana Bailao, City of Toronto Mayoral Candidate

Presentation of the Awards - Part 1

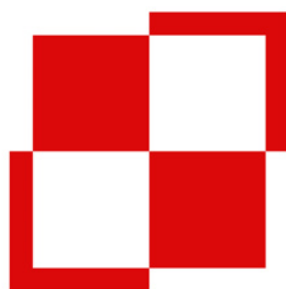
8:45 PM Appetizer and Presentation of the Awards - Part 2

9:15 PM Main Course and Presentation of the Awards - Part 3

10:00 PM End of the Formal Part and Final Remarks



POLISH
HERITAGE
MONTH



POLISH
HERITAGE
MONTH



Recipients of Excellence Award

Executive of the Year 2023

- Dave Farmery

Legal and Regulatory Leader of the Year 2023

- Aleksandra Kurowska

Excellence in Travel Services - 2023

- Polimex Travel - Margaret Manitijs

Excellence in Advanced Technologies - 2023

- Promotion - Mark Zimny

Excellence in Construction and Home Improvements - 2023

- Krolicki Masonry Ltd. - Grzegorz Krolicki

Excellence in Hospitality Services - 2023

- Mega City Linen - Chris Jakubowski

Excellence in Development and Construction Management - 2023

- SIR PM Group Inc. - John Znaczk

Public Affairs and Government Relations Leader of the Year 2023

- Monika Bujalska

Corporate Marketing Leader of the Year 2023

- Yvonne Ziomecki-Fisher

Immigration Lawyer of the Year 2023

- Alexandra Cole

Life Sciences Business Executive of the Year 2023

- Olivia Pacanowska

Rising Star of the Year 2023

- Dr. Anna Kaminska



PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

Message from the Prime Minister of Canada

Today, on May 5, it is with great pleasure that I welcome everyone to the Canada-Poland Chamber of Commerce's Excellence Awards Gala.

Canada and Poland have a deeply rooted relationship crafted through strong people-to-people ties, robust trade, and a close partnership in tackling global challenges through international organizations.

With such a solid foundation, the possibilities for the future are indeed limitless. I am looking forward to working with all of you here today to explore them for the betterment of both nations.



I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the brilliant people being recognized here tonight. Your commitment towards economic progress is truly inspirational – and, I hope that this recognition allows you to take a well-deserved moment of self-fulfillment for everything that you have built and accomplished.

Finally, to the entire team behind the Chamber of Commerce, thank you for everything that you do to strengthen ties between Canada and Poland. In a day and age where some voices around us are focused on division, organizations such as yours, that bring people together, are more important than ever before.

Please accept my warmest wishes for a wonderful gala.

A blue ink signature, likely of Justin Trudeau, written in a cursive style.

Ottawa
2023

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION



CHEF DE L'OPPOSITION

May 5, 2023

Canadian Poland Chamber of Commerce
2680 Matheson Boulevard E., Suite 102
Mississauga, Ontario, L4W 0A5

Dear friends,

As Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada, it is my great pleasure to offer warm wishes to the Canada-Poland Chamber of Commerce as you celebrate your Annual Excellence and Awards Gala.



For generations, Polish Canadians have lived here in Canada, bringing the very best to their communities. This year's award recipients clearly demonstrate this reality. Their achievements stand as a powerful testament to the amazing spirit of Polish Canadians as they draw on the strength of their heritage and community. I'd like to extend my congratulations and heartfelt thanks to everyone receiving an award this year for all that you do to contribute to our country's strength and prosperity.

Thanks also to everyone at the Canada-Poland Chamber of Commerce as you continue to uplift Polish Canadians and highlight their triumphs and successes. I have no doubt that this work will continue to inspire even more greatness from the Polish Canadian community in the years ahead.

During Polish Heritage Month, all Canadians have the opportunity to celebrate the culture of Poland and honour the countless contributions that Polish Canadians have made to our country. Every day, Polish Canadians generously share the richness of your culture and traditions, bringing life to cities and neighbourhoods across Canada. I hope that as you celebrate this month, all Canadians are inspired to learn more about the history and traditions of Poland, which have been such an incredible blessing to our country.

On behalf of the Conservative Party of Canada, best wishes to everyone attending this year's Excellence and Awards Gala and Happy Polish Heritage Month! All the best as you continue your work in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

The Hon. Pierre Poilievre, P.C., M.P.
Leader of His Majesty's Loyal Opposition and Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada

HOUSE OF COMMONS, OTTAWA, ONTARIO K1A 0A6
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES, OTTAWA (ONTARIO) K1A 0A6



Chamber of Commerce

Board of Directors:

Waldemar Halek

President and Chairman



Stephen Klus

Executive VP

Michael Miasek

Secretary

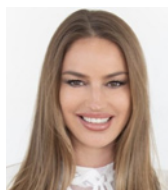


Arthur Krzyck

Treasurer

Anna Krosiński

Board Member



Maggie Habieda

Board Member

Kris Manitius

Board Member



Committees:

Membership • Communications • Events

Board of Advisors



Andrzej Sochaj

From his humble beginnings, he became one of the most prominent Polish-born businessman in Canada. He is the CEO of Cyclone Manufacturing operating in the aerospace industry.



Alicja Zukowska-Wojewnik

Alicja Zukowska-Wojewnik is a Canadian entrepreneur, businesswoman, investor, advocate for the arts, loving nature, and farming.



Chuck Konkel

Chuck Konkel served as an officer cadet in the Canadian Armed Forces and has been a police professional on three continents for more than 40 years. He put in place the Hate Crime programme adopted across Canada for which he received the Senate Award of Merit.



Eugene J.A. Gierczak

Eugene Gierczak a national leader in intellectual property law at Gardiner Roberts with an additional focus on information technology.



Vitek Manitius

Vitek is the founder of Polimex Group which is a number of corporations that have been involved in different aspects of the transportation industry.



Wladyslaw Lizon

Wladyslaw Lizon is a community leader and volunteer. In 2011 he was elected a Conservative member of the House of Commons of Canada, where he served from 2011 to 2015 representing riding of Mississauga East—Cooksville.



Wojciech Sniegowski

Wojciech Sniegowski has unique and very wide skills based on experience gained in the private sector, voluntary based organization and government. Wojciech excels at public relations, advocacy, and interpretation of public policy, public speaking, leadership and development of concepts from their inception to the final product.



Romi Jaszczyński

Romi Jaszczyński is the Head of Office at the Polish Investment and Trade Agency in Toronto. He is an experienced international trade professional managing high-level global business missions, maintaining high level contacts, and facilitating trade and investment opportunities between Canada, US and Poland.



ABOUT THE CHAMBER

Canada-Poland Chamber of Commerce (CPCC) was incorporated on June 21, 1994. The CPCC is dedicated to the promotion, development and expansion of business, trade and investment opportunities between Canada and Poland as well as the development of relationship and networking opportunities within the Canadian-Polish Business Community and with others.


On October 27, 1999, the Chamber entered into an agreement with the Business Centre Club and Association of Polish Artisans (Związek Rzemiosła Polskiego). The organizations agreed to co-operate to further their individual missions and increase membership privileges.

On March 3, 2005, Canada-Poland Chamber of Commerce became a member of the European Union Chamber of Commerce in Toronto. Since 2005, members of the Canada-Poland Chamber of Commerce also receive EUCOCIT/ EUCCAN membership. Our Executive Vice President is also the President of EUCCAN and acts as our official liaison.

We are primarily a networking organization and the majority of our hosted events take place in the Greater Toronto Area. We strive to raise the profile of our members and Canadian Polish businesses. To reinforce the significance of their contributions we host an Excellence Awards Gala.

Although we are based out of Toronto we help organize, promote and participate in Trade Missions to Poland, Forums, Conferences, and we traveled with Prime Minister Harper in 2015 on his Delegation to Poland.

The members of the Canada-Poland Chamber of Commerce do not have any obligation to the organization other than to attend the networking events of their choosing. The benefits of the membership are numerous and listed under the Membership Types page on our website. The most important factor is to be a part of the organization that offers excellent networking opportunities leading to expansion and development of members businesses and contacts. With our growth in new members the Chamber is in a position to advocate with different levels of government in Canada on our member's behalf. Joining does not translate to a responsibility unless one is interested in becoming an active member, joining a committee or running for a board of director position. All members regardless of their level of involvement gain the opportunity to grow and support their own business.



SERVING CANADIAN AND POLISH BUSINESSES SINCE

1994

**OUR MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES
EXPERTS AND BUSINESSES IN
THE FOLLOWING INDUSTRIES**

- Transportation and Logistics
- Aviation Market and Aerospace
- Manufacturing
- Automotive Industry
- Academia
- Information and Technology
- Entrepreneurs
- Food Industry
- Marketing and Publishing
- Search Engine Optimization
- Engineering and Technology
- Nuclear Power and Engineering
- Health Industry
- Hospitality and Linens
- Financial Services
- Investment and Banking
- Real Estate
- Lawyers, Barristers and Solicitors
- Regulatory and Scientific Solutions
- Architecture and Design
- Government Relations
- Domestic and International Trade
- Public Relations Agencies
- Construction
- Photography and Videography
- Travel Industry
- Sharing Economy Companies
- Polish Foundations
- Non-Profit Organizations

CANADA  **POLAND**
Chamber of Commerce



ABOUT MEMBERSHIP

Members of the Canada-Poland Chamber of Commerce do not have any obligation to the organization other than to attend the networking events of their choosing.

Benefits of each level of membership and sponsorship can be viewed on our Membership and Sponsorship Opportunities pages at www.canada-poland.com

MEMBERSHIP TYPES –

- STUDENT \$50.00 per annum
- INDIVIDUAL \$150.00 per annum
- SMALL/MEDIUM BUSINESS \$350.00 per annum
- INSTITUTION \$600.00 per annum
- CORPORATION \$1,000.00 per annum

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES –

- CHAMBER PARTNER \$2,000.00 per annum
- CORPORATE PARTNER \$2,500.00 per annum
- STRATEGIC PARTNER \$3,000.00 per annum

EVENT SPONSORSHIP –

- EXCELLENCE AWARDS GALA
- ANNUAL WINTER & SUMMER NETWORKING EVENTS
- SEMINARS, CONFERENCES, TRADE MISSIONS, ETC.

** Contact info@canada-poland.com for custom packages. **



CANADA  **POLAND**
Chamber of Commerce



FACTS ABOUT CANADA-POLAND RELATIONS

- Canada and Poland enjoy excellent political, social and commercial relations with expanding military cooperation and growing academic cultural ties.
- Canada was the first country to ratify the Accession Protocols for Polish accession to the North Atlantic Organization (NATO).
- Poland is Canada's largest market in Central and Eastern Europe, with bilateral merchandise trade reaching over \$1.9 billion in 2014 - \$346 million in Canadian exports and \$1.6 billion in Canadian imports.
- Business on both sides of the Atlantic benefit from provisions in the Canada-European Union Trade Agreement (CETA), ratified in 2017.
- CETA will significantly improve market access for services and investment. Canada's Market Access Plan (MAP), a three-year plan under Canada's Global Markets Action Plan, for Poland will help Canadian business benefit even further from those opportunities.

www.canada-poland.com

CANADA  **POLAND**
Chamber of Commerce

Excellence Awards by Canada-Poland Chamber of Commerce

Canada-Poland Chamber of Commerce Excellence Awards has an aim to recognize business people outstanding in their field by their peers for their commitment to organizational excellence. By awarding those organizations and most committed to economic progress, both for themselves and for the Canadian market as a whole, we all take a more prominent position and gain greater influence in trade between Canada and Poland or strengthening the image of the Polish Business community in Canada.

Nomination Process:

Canada-Poland Chamber of Commerce accepts self-nominations and nominations by members or non-members. This year, the Excellence Awards Nominating Committee was made up of the Board of Directors of Canada-Poland Chamber of Commerce. Prior to the final nomination each nominee is contacted to obtain the nominee's interest in receiving the award and participating in our annual Excellence Awards Gala.

Submission Rules

1. Judging for this award is based solely on the information provided by the nominee.
2. The nominee of Polish descent doesn't have to be a Chamber member.
3. To be considered for an award the nominee not of Polish descent has to be a Chamber member.
4. Businesses and Individuals cannot be nominated in multiple categories.
MUST only select 1 category to put forth for a submission.
5. Past recipients are eligible to be re-nominated the next year in a different category.
6. One can be re-nominated for the same category only after at least 3 years have passed from the initial nomination.

Evaluation Process

1. Board members will receive summaries of the nominations prior to their determinations.
2. The judging panel will take into consideration additional factors:
 - a/ Leadership
 - b/ Professionalism
 - c/ Social Involvement
 - d/ Innovation
 - e/ Activity in Chamber Initiatives
3. If there are two individuals/companies that stand out equally and a decision cannot be reached by the Judges, the Chair and Vice President - Membership of the Canada-Poland Chamber of Commerce will jointly make a final decision.
4. The Judges' decisions are final. Details of the Judges' panel meetings will not be disclosed, and all entries will be treated as strictly confidential. Only details of the award winners in each category will be published.

Dave Farmery

Executive of the Year 2023



Dave Farmery was born in Orillia, Ontario. Mr. Farmery is a graduate of Mohawk College of Applied Arts and Technology in the Metallurgy and Materials program. This early focus on metals and materials was a clear enabler of his passion for the Aerospace Industry.

Mr. Farmery is the President and Chief Operating Officer of Vac Aero International, a materials solutions company based in Burlington, Ontario and a member of the Board of Directors of the Ontario Aerospace Council. He has held various leadership, operations, quality, engineering, and business development roles of increasing responsibility with Air Canada, Smiths Aerospace, GE Aviation, Pratt & Whitney Canada, and MB Aerospace. The latter three roles were all based in Poland over an 18-year period.



Aleksandra Kurowska

Legal and Regulatory Leader of the Year 2023



Aleksandra Kurowska was born in Kielce, Poland and immigrated to Canada with her parents and brother Tom, also a lawyer in 1969. Originally the family settled in Atlantic Canada where Aleksandra attended Bathurst High School in N.B. and subsequently obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1979 from Dalhousie University Halifax, N.S.

She graduated with a law degree and was admitted to the N.B. Bar in 1983 and practiced in a law firm, before moving to Ontario and settling in Mississauga. Ms. Kurowska was admitted to the Ontario Bar Association in 1987.

She commenced her employment as a general counsel at St. Stanislaus, St. Casimir's Polish Parishes Credit Union, and periodically acted as a Chief Executive Officer, in the absence of the then CEO. Additionally, during her tenure with the Credit Union she was interviewed by Polish television on various legal topics.

Her career of over 35 yrs. spanned the financial services industry: credit unions, banks and insurance companies. Ms. Kurowska specializes in corporate commercial law and regulatory compliance.

Believing in giving back to her community, throughout her life, Ms. Kurowska volunteered in many organizations, including Beaverbrook Art Gallery, Women in Transition, Run for the Cure and March of Dimes to name a few.

For the past 5 yrs. Aleksandra has sat on the Board of Directors of Copernicus Lodge, a not-for-profit long-term care home. She was previously the Chair of the Board and is currently the Chair of its Quality Assurance and Risk Committee.

Ms. Kurowska is presently VP Legal and Compliance at DUCA Financial Services Credit Union and is about to welcome her first grandchild, thanks to her son Luke Barrie and his wife Laura.



Polimex Travel - Margaret Manitius

Excellence in Travel Services - 2023



Margaret Manitius was born and raised in Gdansk, Poland. She holds a Master's Degree in Law from the University of Gdansk. In 1981 she left Poland and briefly lived in Sweden before moving to Canada. She has been in Toronto since 1982.

She is the founder of Polimex Travel Inc, a travel agency specializing in ticket sales and tours to Poland, Central and Eastern Europe. Committed to assisting with all aspects of planning a memorable trip to Poland and Central Europe, our motto is "We know Poland best... we know the customs, we know the language!"

The people at Polimex Travel are its greatest asset and the driving force in its continued success since the company's inception. By attracting highly talented and dedicated people, Polimex Travel provides exceptional service that has set a new standard in customer service. The staff at Polimex Travel have a common goal of working together as a team to go above and beyond their clients' needs.

Polimex Travel has been successfully serving a large section of the Canadian community with unmatched travel services for a long time. Our extensive hands-on experience provides an opportunity for our customers to fulfill their travel dreams. This is a personalized service at its best and Polimex Travel will do whatever it takes to get the job done right!

As a patron of arts, Margaret is very actively engaged with expanding Polish culture by sponsoring cultural events. She is also a long-standing member of "Stowarzyszenie Gdanzczan w Kanadzie". Mrs. Manitius is also the wife of Vitek Manitius and proud mother of Kristopher and Anita.



POLIMEX TRAVEL



PROMATION - Mark Ziemny

Excellent in Edvanded Technologies - 2023



"Fair and ethical competition in the business benefits competing peers, their customers, and ultimately the public at large. As in sports, I'm committed to healthy competition."

Mark Zimny M.Sc., P.Eng. has been the founder and CEO of Promotion companies in Oakville, Ontario, supplying robotic machinery, tooling and unique systems to automotive, nuclear, aerospace defence and other industrial markets since 1995. Promotion shipped its products to Canada, the USA, Mexico, Korea, Japan, South Africa, Argentina, Poland, and China. Promotion has received numerous business awards.

Mark is the director on the Board of the NSERC/CFI Holistic Innovation in Additive Manufacturing (HI-AM) Network and was on the Southern Ontario Defence Association board. Mark had been the Organization of Canadian Nuclear Industries (OCNI) board director for eight years. Mark also extended his advocacy by participating in the Nuclear Industry Forum and the Ontario Council of Manufacturing Executives, part of Canadian Manufacturing Exporters. He has contributed to the Mississauga Board of Trade Policy Advisory Committee, initiating and co-authoring new Scientific Research and Development (SRED) policy amendments endorsed and adopted by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. Mark served on the Sheridan College Advanced Technology Advisory Board and the Canada-Poland Chamber of Commerce Board.

PROMATION

Krolicki Masonry Ltd. - Grzegorz Krolicki

Excellence in Construction and Home Improvements - 2023



Greg came to Canada in 1986 as a young student of the Warsaw Polytechnic. Like many new Canadians he turned to the construction industry to find his opportunity. Like some, after getting some experience and local knowledge, he founded his own company in 1988. Like few, he made it prosper and grow through hard work and dedication to excellence.

Krolicki Masonry Ltd, is dedicated to providing top-of-the-line, quality service for chimney rebuilding and repair. The Toronto-based company also specializes in high quality construction, restoration and renovation services for commercial and residential brickwork projects. Their team members have received high quality training from master masons, are Lic. Holders, and are WETT certified and Insured.

Greg is a dedicated husband and father, who is also an avid sailor. You can often spot him on his lovely sailing boat, Varsovia, on Lake Ontario.



Mega City Linen - Chris Jakubowski

Hospitality Business of the Year 2023



Mega City Linen & Uniform Supply was established in 1990 by Chris Jakubowski. From the very humble beginnings in the garage of his home Chris has built a company which is now a leader in the hospitality industry offering unparalleled service to hotels, golf courses, banquet halls, convention centres, restaurants, private residences and more. Mega City Linen Group prides themselves on providing clients with a wide selection of high quality good and top-tier service.

The Mega City family consists of industry professionals, executives, décor specialists, and event consultants to service all the needs of its customers. A fundamental aspect of this company is built on integrity and reliability to ensure that their clients receive superior service and have a memorable experience.

Following success of basic commercial laundry services Mega City Linen Group expanded to include WEDS – Wedding & Event Design Studio, a flower and accessories line, as well as limousine service. Becoming One-Stop-Event-Shop.

Recently Mega City Linen Group surviving difficult period that COVID brought upon the hospitality industry, has added a second commercial laundry facility in the City of Niagara with plans to extend their services to the new clientele on northern New York State.

Chris Jakubowski with the strong support from his family is building on successes, striving to deliver excellence in hospitality service.



SIR PM Group Inc. - John Znaczkowski

Excellence in Development and Construction Management - 2023



Mr. John Znaczkowski was born in Kolobrzeg, Poland. He obtained his Structural Technologist Engineering Degree from Koszalin Institute of Technology. While attending the Institute he continued his soccer career with 1st Division Soccer Clubs in Poland. In 1980 he took the opportunity to leave Poland through Vienna, Austria and signed a contract to play Professional Soccer in Australia.

During this period of his soccer career in Perth, Western Australia he attended and completed his courses of study at Western Australian Institute of Technology and graduated with a degree as a Structural Engineering Technologist.

John started his career as an assistant to the Vice-President of Export Construction for Multiplex PLC, one of the largest construction companies in the world. His responsibilities included negotiating construction contracts with large international companies and various government departments in the different countries that Multiplex PLC had been asked to submit their proposals. These contract projects included water dams, power plants, large industrial manufacturing plants, bridges, airports and multi storey buildings.

John's professional career gave him the opportunity to work and travel to many different countries as project manager on various construction projects - Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, India, Malaysia, Indonesia, South Africa, Kenya, Egypt, Vietnam, India, Malaysia, China, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Germany, Poland, Russia and Ukraine.

In 1988, John immigrated to Canada and was employed by Ellis Don Construction – Toronto, as a Project Manager. His assignments took him to many job sites in Canada and USA and he was given the responsibility of representing the company as part of Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's Government Mission to Poland, Soviet Russia and Soviet Ukraine.

In 1992 he opened his own Project Management Company focused on high quality residential and commercial developments.

As a builder and developer, John has also been involved in project stakeholder relations, building registrations and has deep experience with the art of liaison with local authorities, politicians and interest groups essential to a project's acceptance and success.

As an active participant in the industry John is a member of the committee tasked with updating the Ontario Building Code to encourage passive and net zero systems designs to create green technology for greater use of sustainable housing and passive energy.



PROJECT MANAGEMENT • RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

Monika Bujalska

Public Affairs and Government Relations Leader of the Year 2023



As the Vice-President of Public Affairs, Monika leads the provincial and federal government relations practice at Sutherland Corp.

With 20 years of cross-discipline experience at all orders of government, Monika has established her expertise in government relations, strategic communications and issues management. She specializes in complex policy areas with multiple stakeholders, and regularly represents domestic and multinational corporations in a wide range of sectors including finance, municipal affairs and housing, economic development, transportation, energy, labour and more. A mentor to her peers and colleagues, Monika has served in a variety of senior communications and issues management roles including for Canada's Minister of International Trade, leading members of Ontario's official opposition, at Toronto City Hall and the Ontario Power Authority.

Born in Warsaw, Poland, Monika's family settled in Canada in 1988. Deeply connected to her Polish heritage, she was actively involved in Polish scouts associations Związek Harcerstwa Polskiego (ZHP) and Związek Harcerstwa Rzeczypospolitej (ZHR) and, as a member of the Lechowia Polish Canadian Dance Company for over a decade, has represented her two homelands to audiences in Canada and Monika graduated from the University of Toronto with an Honours Degree in Political Science and economics.

sutherland

Yvonne Ziomecki-Fisher

Corporate Marketing Leader of the Year 2023



An immigrant from Poland at 18 years old, Yvonne Ziomecki-Fisher's story is one of perseverance and determination. Now the Executive Vice President of Marketing and Sales at HomeEquity Bank, Yvonne is responsible for driving originations growth and increasing revenues through her steadfast leadership of a high-performing sales team and award-winning marketing department.

Prior to joining HomeEquity Bank in 2013, Yvonne graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Toronto and holds her Master of Business Administration from the Schulich School of Business. Early in her career, Yvonne worked at Royal Trust, PuroLator, and Sprint before spending 12 years with American Express, where she held various leadership roles.

Throughout her tenure at HomeEquity Bank, Yvonne has fought to raise awareness and dispel misconceptions about the CHIP Reverse Mortgage, a financial solution for Canadians 55 and over. She has formulated disruptive, creative strategies while working to empower the Bank's target market, namely older Canadians. Yvonne's vision and impact on HomeEquity Bank's brand and financial results is undeniable, with HomeEquity Bank reporting over \$1 billion in reverse mortgage originations for consecutive years in 2021 and 2022. In addition, Yvonne is a Board Member at RATESDOTCA Group Ltd, has previously sat on the boards of the MedicAlert Foundation Canada and the Canadian Association for Financial Institutions in Insurance, and is the co-author of *Home Run: The Reverse Mortgage Advantage*, a guide to helping Canadians lead a financially secure retirement. She was recognized as a CMP Woman of Influence in 2016 and 2022, and was named as a recipient of Strategy's Marketer of the Year award in 2022.

She credits her success to strong female leaders and role models in her life.



Alexandra Cole

Immigration Lawyer of the Year 2023



Alexandra Cole is a senior associate at Green and Spiegel LLP. She specializes in all categories of work permit applications and Labour Market Impact Assessments, primarily representing corporations and various organizations to facilitate the entry of personnel into Canada. She also assists clients in preparing business visitor applications, visitor and study visas and permits, as well as applications for citizenship and permanent residency including family class sponsorships, provincial nominations and applications under the Express Entry system. Alexandra has experience representing clients with NEXUS program membership cancellation appeals and appeals involving various enforcement decisions taken by the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), including the seizure of goods and funds. Alexandra holds significant experience advising on complex personal immigration issues involving admissibility and enforcement matters. Additionally, she advises clients on litigation matters before the Immigration and Refugee Board and the Federal Court of Canada.

Alexandra has co-authored the book "Temporary Entry Into the Canadian Labour Market" (Emond, 2021), which provides a well-rounded explanation of the avenues and implications of a foreign national's entry into the Canadian labour market. Prior to joining Green and Spiegel, Alexandra worked for the immigration passenger operations branch of the CBSA.

Prior to her call to the bar in 2015, Alexandra completed her undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice and Public Policy from the University of Guelph and studied at the Faculty of Law at Western University. As a law student, Alexandra was a team supervisor and case worker for the immigration services team at the pro bono clinic, Community Legal Services.

GREEN
AND SPIEGEL LLP
THE IMMIGRATION LAW FIRM

Olivia Pacanowska

Life Sciences Business Executive of the Year 2023



Olivia Pacanowska is a driven and thoughtful leader, she is a 5x corporate award winner, trailblazing influence in the scientific community. She understands the scientific industry is unique and has dedicated herself to learning about emerging trends and therapies in which she can partake in bringing opportunities to the community.

Olivia's passion and curiosity has taken her down many roads leading her to where she is today. Shortly after Olivia was born in Germany, her parents Barbara and Wladyslaw immigrated to begin a new life in Canada. Raised by her two proud Polish parents, older sister Martyna and brother Karol, her family ensured she kept her strong Polish heritage. She was very involved in the community from Lechowia Folk Dance, Polish Scouts, Polish Ballroom and even represented the Polish Canadian Team in Luge, winning a Gold and Bronze medal in the European Olympic games.

It wasn't until the winter of 2013 that Olivia was fortunate enough to find her path into the science industry by joining Actalent. She began working for the new Sciences team in Canada. She worked with her leaders to grow the clientele across the country and explored new and creative ways to partner on a global level. Over the last 10 years she has been part of creating many new roles and specializing in all functions in sciences. Olivia is now the Global Business Development Manager overseeing the Engineering, Software Systems, Clinical and Lab services for life science partnerships. Her reach is global but if you have ever spoken to her, you know she is constantly looking at creative ways to advocate the benefits of partnering with her and the Canadian market.

During her professional career Olivia spent many years supporting various initiatives such as the Diversity and Inclusion board, Women's executive network partnership, ACRP (Accredited Clinical Research Professionals board) and an active member of the Life Sciences Ontario community. She has a passion for travel, cooking, music and love for dancing as well as animals (especially her 13-year-old Malchi named DeeJay). Olivia's high energy, passion and curiosity constantly pushes her to be resourceful, obtain, as well as provide mentorship for businesses to thrive. Whether it is around capitalizing on SR&ED credits, investor connections or discussion of business plans, I highly encourage you to connect with Olivia to continue influencing the economy and Sciences community.



Dr. Anna Kaminska

Rising Star of the Year 2023



Born and raised in Poland, Anna has always been driven to succeed, and this drive led her to pursue a highly impressive educational path. She graduated with honours from the Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Psychology at Warsaw University. Then embarked on doctoral studies at the prestigious Polish Academy of Sciences, where she received a Ph.D. degree in Law. During her time in academia, Anna was also undergoing her attorney-at-law training in the Warsaw Bar Association and was taking legal courses at Cambridge University in the UK.

For over a decade, she enjoyed a successful career as a litigator in Poland, where she represented clients in real estate and construction works disputes. Anna also shared her expertise as an academic teacher at a top Polish university, designing and delivering a graduate course for law students on psychological skills essential for their future legal practice. Anna's big passion for neuroscience and brain performance led her to complete Life & Business Coaching school and initiate an additional professional path as a corporate trainer and brain coach.

After spending a vacation in Toronto, Anna felt that this was the place she wanted to call home. She made the bold decision to leave behind her successful legal career and university teaching position in Poland and she moved to Canada. This turned out to be a bigger challenge than expected due to the global pandemic, which was announced just one week after she received Permanent Resident status.

In this challenging beginning, Anna found support from the Canada-Poland Chamber of Commerce, which helped her navigate the difficult start in her new home. Today, Anna is thriving in Canada, playing the role of HR & Legal Affairs Manager at dicentra – a Clinical Research and Consulting Company. She is pursuing her legal license with the Law Society of Ontario and hopes to return to academic lecturing. Anna's story demonstrates that hard work and dedication can overcome even the toughest obstacles.

The advertisement features the Dicentra logo on the left, which includes a circular icon with a stylized 'd' and the text 'dicentra' in a serif font, with 'GUIDANCE | INNOVATION | TRUST' in a smaller sans-serif font below it. To the right of the logo is a large, abstract image of a hand pointing towards a bright, glowing point of light, surrounded by swirling, colorful lines and dots, suggesting a futuristic or high-tech theme. Below the logo and image, the text 'Your Clinical Trial Partner' is written in a bold, sans-serif font. Underneath this, in a smaller font, is the tagline 'Simplifying Compliance and Supercharging Innovation for Medtech, Pharma, Wellness, and Food.' At the bottom left, the website 'www.dicentra.com' is listed in a small, sans-serif font.

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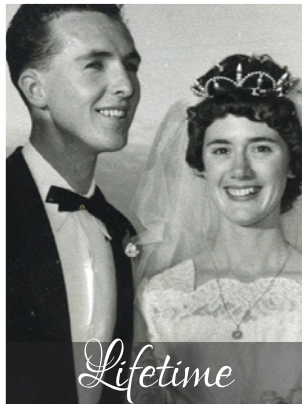
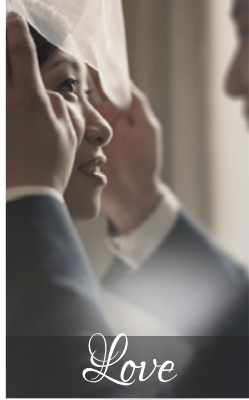
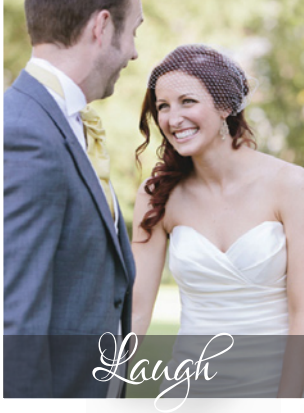
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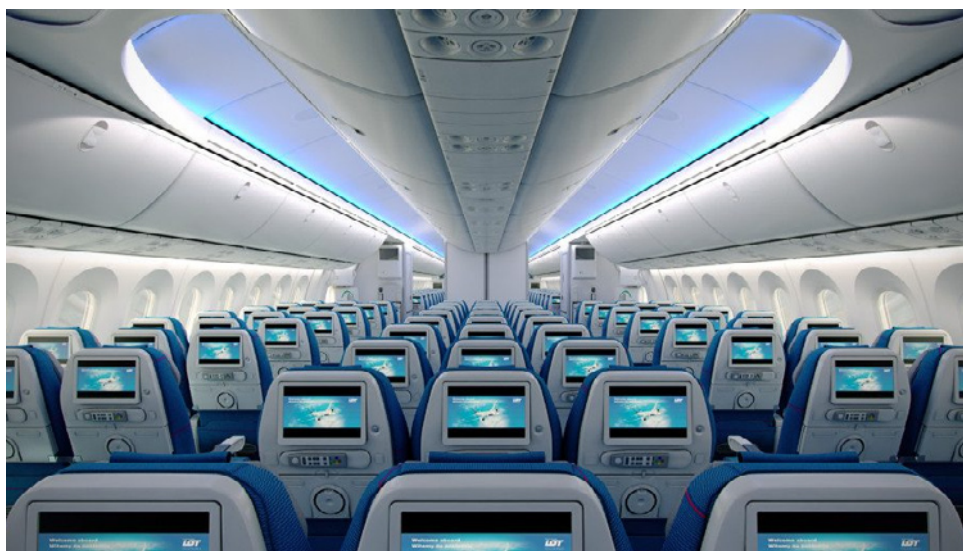
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Chamber of Commerce

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CANADA POLAND

Chamber of Commerce

Canada-Poland Chamber of Commerce, incorporated on June 21, 1994, is dedicated to the promotion, development and expansion of business, trade and investment opportunities between Canada and Poland as well as development of relationship and networking opportunities within the Canadian-Polish Business Community and with others.

On October 27, 1999, the Chamber entered into an agreement with the Business Centre Club and Association of Polish Artisans (Związek Rzemiosła Polskiego). The organizations agreed to co-operate to further their individual missions and increase membership privileges.

On March 3, 2005, the Canada-Poland Chamber of Commerce became a member of the European Union Chamber of Commerce of Canada.

Board of Directors:

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