



# Leaders in Action Summit

## May 30-June 1, 2015, Ottawa, Canada

### Young Polish Leaders in Action


Sunday, May 31, 2015



**10:00 a.m.** Leaders Development Panel #1: Young Polonia Initiatives in Canada and the next 10 years  
**Location:** Honeywell Room, Ottawa City Hall, 110 Laurier Avenue West, Ottawa

**Moderator:** Natalia Kusendova, Canadian Polish Congress, Polish Students' Initiative of Canada  
**Speakers:** Mike Kustra, ISKRA Project, PISK; Paula Poniatowska, PSA, UoT; Law Society of Upper Canada; Anna Barycka; Quo Vadis Conference Series, PCSAW; Nadia Hosseinzadeh, PSA, UoT; Ericsson Canada

**12:00 p.m.** Luncheon Break



**1:00 p.m.** Leaders Development Workshop, Part 2



**Briefing on Protocol**  
**Speaker:** Kuba Karaś, Director, Young Polish Canadian Professionals' Association, Ottawa Chapter

**The Polish Combatants' Association in Canada support of and interaction with young Polonia in Canada**  
**Speaker:** Andrzej Ruta, National President; Jerzy Barycki, Member of Council for Youth Affairs

**Financial Freedom**  
**Speaker:** Slawek Muturi, a professional of Polish and Kenyan descent who currently resides in Warsaw, Poland and is an alumnus of Warsaw Business School (M.Sc. Econ), Warsaw University (LL.M.) and London Business School (MBA).

**3:00 p.m.** Break

**6:00 p.m.** Group Photo: steps in front of the Polish Embassy  
**Location:** The Polish Embassy in Ottawa, 443 Dally Avenue



**6:15 p.m.** Polish Partnership Opportunities for Canada  
**Speakers:** Andrzej Fafara, Counsellor, Deputy Head of Mission, Polish Embassy in Ottawa; Tomasz Kijewski, Economy Secretary, Polish Embassy in Ottawa

**7:30 p.m.** Reception hosted by the Polish Embassy

The second biennial "Leaders in Action Summit" took place on May 30<sup>th</sup>- June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015, in the capital city, Ottawa. Members of the Polish Students' Initiative of Canada (PISK) and the Young Polish Canadian Professionals' Association (YPCPA) met together for a weekend of discussions and workshops on challenges, prospects and future projects of young Polonia in Canada. Around 40 delegates attending the summit came from the cities of Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal and also included some guests visiting from Poland, who brought great context and perspectives to the discussions.

The summit began with an integrative social cocktail night organized by the YPCPA Ottawa branch on Saturday night, which was a great opportunity for the delegates to network and get acquainted with each other. Sunday was filled with panel discussions and workshops featuring topics such as: Young Polonia initiatives and the next 10 years, bridging the Polonia generations gap, financial freedom and fundraising. Panelists and guest speakers included:

Natalia Kusendova, PISK Senior Advisor, CPC Member of National Executive Board;  
Paula Poniatowska, PSA University of Toronto, Upper Law Society of Canada;  
Nadia Hosseinzadeh, PSA University of Toronto, Liberal Team Polonia;  
Mike Kustra, PISK President, ISKRA Project, CPC Member of Seniors Committee;  
Anna Barycka, Quo Vadis Conference Series, PCSAW;  
Andy Ruta, Polish Combatants' Association- National President;  
Jerzy Barycki, Polish Combatants' Association- Youth Affairs Council Member;  
Slawek Muturi, Polish-Kenyan currently residing in Warsaw, Poland. Alumnus of Warsaw Business School (M.Sc. Econ), Warsaw University (LL.M.) and London Business School (MBA).

Series of questions and debates were brought to the table. It was an interesting series of meetings that gave everyone the opportunity to connect, create action plans and set future goals to strengthen and integrate Polonia, from the youth perspective. The day concluded with a reception at the Embassy of Poland and featured a dialogue between the delegates and the Polish Ambassador to Canada, Mr. Marcin Bosacki.

The official part of the Summit was on Monday and took place on Parliament Hill. The Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons, MP Joe Comartin graciously hosted a discussion panel, followed by a luncheon. The discussion panel was on the topic of New Challenges to Peace and Prosperity in Central and Eastern Europe and featured MPs from the three parties: David Anderson (PC), Paul Dewar (NDP) and Marc Garneau (Liberal). The discussion was centered on the crisis in Ukraine and its implications on Canada's and Poland's foreign policy and national defence strategy. The luncheon that followed featured two Members of Parliament of Polish heritage: MP Wladyslaw Lizon and MP Ted Opatz. The discussion was focused on the Canada-Poland Parliamentary Friendship Group. During both sessions, delegates had the opportunity to ask questions of the parliamentarians and engage in meaningful dialogue. The day concluded with a chance to observe Question Period in the House and two surprise visits from Hon. Minister Jason Kenney and Hon. Minister Chris Alexander.

Overall, it was a successful, informative and engaging weekend for Polonia youth where many connections, bonds and even friendships were made, and our Polish heritage was celebrated.

By Natalia Kusendova

The YPCPA Ottawa Chapter invites you to our third annual

# COCKTAIL NIGHT

Join us for cocktails and complimentary appetizers, and meet members from our YPCPA Toronto Chapter!

**SATURDAY, MAY 30 8pm**

**ACE MERCADO**  
121 CLARENCE STREET  
\$15

**PURCHASE TICKETS:**  
ypcpa-cocktails@toronto.ca

ottawa@ypcpa.ca  www.ypcpa.ca











## AGENDA

<u>Young Polonia Ottawa Trip</u> 309-S, Valour Bldg. & Centre Block House of Commons	10am – 4:00pm June 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2015
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### 10:00 – 10:15am (309-S, Valour Bldg):

- Meet & Greet of Participants, Late Shows

### 10:15 – 10:40am:

- Introduction by Deputy Speaker Joe Comartin of Speakers & Brief Comments on:

### **Central & Eastern Europe: New Challenges to Peace & Prosperity**

*Hosted by*

### **Deputy Speaker Joe Comartin, MP**

*Mr. Paul Dewar, MP (NDP Foreign Affairs Critic)*

*Mr. Marc Garneau, MP (LIB Foreign Affairs Critic)*

*Mr. David Anderson (TBC)*

### 10:40 – 11:30am:

- Question & Answer Period

### 11:30 – Noon:

- Proceed to House of Commons, Centre Block Security

### Noon – 1:30pm:

- Luncheon @ 216N, Centre Block

### *Mr. Wladyslaw Lizon, MP*

*Canada-Poland Parliamentary Friendship Group*

### 1:30 – 2:00pm:

- Proceed to Question Period Security/Seats

### 2:00 – 3:30pm:

- Question Period

### 3:40 – 4:00pm:

- House of Commons, Centre Block Tour

Please see attached a menu for your convenience. We would appreciate your meal and beverage pre-order to assure an uninterrupted discussion. Send your order (or for any further luncheon information) to:

IAN MCMAHON

Assistant to the Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons / Adjoint au Vice-président de la Chambre des communes

Joe Comartin, M.P. for Windsor-Tecumseh | Joe Comartin, député de Windsor-Tecumseh

Tel : 613-947-3446 [joe.comartin.a1@parl.gc.ca](mailto:joe.comartin.a1@parl.gc.ca) 613-947-3446



## The Day of Polonia Youth in the Parliament

Monday saw the climax of a three-day programme of meetings for Polonia youth in Ottawa, this time involving Canadian Members of Parliament. The first item on the programme was a debate with the participation of MPs, namely the Hon. David Anderson, MP and Parliamentary Secretary of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Consular (PC); Paul Dewar, MP and Parliamentary Critic of Foreign Affairs (NDP); and Marc Garneau, MP and also Parliamentary Critic of Foreign Affairs (Lib). The meeting was chaired superbly by our coordinator of numerous gatherings of this kind in the Parliament over a period of many years, MP Joe Comartin, Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons. He is an example of a representative, not of Polish heritage, who has collaborated with Polonia for a dozen or more years.

There was an interesting debate involving the individual panellists and with the theme, Central and Eastern Europe: New Challenges in Maintaining Peace and Prosperity. Then there were questions, mainly dealing with the situation in Ukraine. The present conflict in Ukraine, which shares a border with Poland, is a serious threat to the security of that part of Europe, including Poland. It was noted that Poland should be in readiness militarily to defend her eastern borders, for this is the lesson of history. It also was emphasized that economic sanctions and strong support by Canada and Poland for the Ukrainian people in maintaining their independence and democracy are valued greatly by Ukraine and a majority of countries around the world. The view also was expressed that the Russian people should exert their influence for a change in the politics of the Putin regime and for the creation of true democracy, as occurred in the former socialist nations.

Next, during lunch, two MPs of Polish heritage, joined our group, Władysław Lizoń, President, and Ted Opitz, Vice President, the Canada-Poland Parliamentary Friendship Group. Representative Opitz was interested in learning who among those present had graduated from the School for Polonia Leaders in Poland and who would participate in it this year. He instantly expressed appreciation of this programme. The MPs encouraged the young people of Polonia to get involved in the upcoming federal election in Canada.

Then, to the great pleasure of everyone present, the Hon. Chris Alexander, the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, arrived. The young, energetic minister willingly responded to questions, after which the entire group moved to the conference hall, where traditionally Question Period takes place. The debate is always very emotional and both applause and vocal protests critical of the MPs are heard. It was a good lesson in Canadian democracy and an interesting experience.

Immediately after leaving the conference hall, another pleasant surprise took the form of a brief meeting with the Hon. Jason Kenney, the Minister of National Defence and Minister for Multiculturalism. This indefatigable supporter of collaboration with ethnic groups is regarded by many as the joint author of the successes of the present government (PC).

At the conclusion, Dominic Roszak, Deputy Chief of Staff (Multiculturalism) at the Office of the Minister of Defence and Minister for Multiculturalism, led the group around the Parliament building and the most beautiful Victorian Parliamentary Library, near which the brutal terrorist and murderer of a Canadian soldier was shot not long ago.

In closing, it is noteworthy that this was the most recent, successful session of Young Polonia in Action; the previous one took place in 2013. On this occasion, the group of young professionals (YPCPA) and students (PISK) was markedly larger than before. On Saturday, there were about 35 participants and on Monday about 20, because some people had to return to work. The growing interest and increasing number of participants are an indication of the need for organizing programmes of this kind. Words of appreciation and gratitude go out from us to all of the organizers, panellists, speakers and participants.

Ania Barycka, Windsor, June 2, 2015

Translated by Frank Simpson, Windsor, October 9, 2015













