|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Date: | Tuesday, May 13, 2025 at 18:30 |  |
| Place: | ZOOM | |
| Attending: | Board: Andris Ķesteris, Ed Kalvins, Ieva Mežule, Mark Watson, Normunds Kupcis, Sam Davidovich, Una Brūna  Canadian Embassy: Nicolas Lepage,  Audit Committee: | |
| Absent: | Astrida Bola, Dzintra Renigere, Indra Sproģe-Kalviņa, Sintija Frienberga | |
| Chair: | Ed Kalvins | |
| Minutes: | Ed Kalvins | |

# Minutes of Meeting:

## Approval of MR-2501: approved as written.

# Organizational

## **FICIL**

* Application submitted.

## **Immediate objectives**

### Current strategy

* Strategy: Based on strategic partnerships between Canadian and Latvian businesses to be developed. Establishment of Team Canada.
* Priority still given to establishing Canadian business in Latvia, though Latvian business with/in Canada is also supported (as per statutes).
* 250513 – EK/MW to prepare “paper” on strategic partnership strategy

### Baltic Canadian Chamber of Commerce (BCCC)

* Concept discussed.
* Objective that each Baltic state should have its own chamber registered in their country similar to the CCCL.
* The unifying body could be the BCCC with a rotating leadership. Perhaps this could be an informal (i.e. not registered) body.

## **Interaction with Canadians**

### 240220 – Board - Interaction with Canadian companies / entrepreneurs active in Latvia. – Part of the above-mentioned strategic partnership initiative. Complete

### Conference "Women in the Armed Forces" on 6 December at Adazi military base.

* 241230 – IM to provide a report.

## **Other**

### Ethics Committee Regulations

* 240220 – EK Use NEBA “Our Core Values” as the basis for CanCham’s ethics position.

### Sponsorship policy:

* 240318 – EK, IM to propose sponsorship policy.

# Finance

## Current Financial position as of Monday, March 13th, 2025.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | 30.07.2024 | 21.10. 2024 | 30.12.2024 | 03.03.2025 | 13.05.2025 |
| Cash on hand | **0.00** | **0.00** | **0.00** | **0.00** | **0.00** |
| Cash in bank | **1,372.24** | **4,151.23** | **3,033.28** | **3,753.63** | **4,674.94** |
| **Total cash available** | **1,372.24** | **4,151.23** | **3,033.28** | **3,753.63** | **4,674.94** |
| **Accounts payable** | **0.00** | **0.00** | **0.00** | **0.00** | **0.00** |
| **Net financial position** | **1,372.24** | **4,151.23** | **3,033.28** | **3,753.63** | **4,674.94** |

# Membership

## New Members:

* 17.03.2025 Silver level - Baltic Restaurants Latvia
* 17.04.2025 Bronze level - Partners in Relocation Group
* 22.04.2025 Bronze level – Tinto
* 28.04.2025 Bronze level - Smart Move Relocation

### Active Members in Good Standing as of December 30th, 2024

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Level | 21.10. 2024 | 30.12.2024 | 03.03.2025 | 13.05.2025 |
| Gold | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Silver | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| Bronze | 15 | 18 | 20 | 23 |
| Individual | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Total | 20 | 25 | 28 | 32 |

# Events & Programs

## Past Events

### **Friday, March 14th, 2025 at 18.30** - “More than a Dance”Canadian Embassy supported the premiere of the documentary “More than a Dance” in Latvia at Forum Cinemas. Members offered two tickets per member without cost.

### **Wednesday, March 26th, 2025 at 12.30** - Business Networking Luncheon with Dr. Jonathan Calof in Riga. 17 registered, 16 attended, all paid. [Report](https://cancham.lv/NEWS/28032025-report-on-business-networking-luncheon-with-dr-jonathan-calof-mobilizing-for-trade-and-trad).

### **Thursday, March 27th, 2025** - Riga Business School mini-course on “Preparing for Foreign Trade Show Participation with Competitive Intelligence” Presented by Dr. Jonathan Calof. Organized by RBS.

### **Wednesday, May 7th, 2025 at 14:00** - “Improving the business environment in Riga”. The Deputy Mayor of Riga invited chambers to this meeting. UB and EK represented the CanCham. UB stressed the importance of communication, and there was consensus on this issue. Similar meeting are to be held annually. Of particular interest was the introduction of RUAK Riga Business Support Contact Point / Rīgas uzņēmēju atbalsta kontaktpunkts, established on February 1st, 2024, see <https://www.riga.lv/lv/strukturvieniba/rigas-uznemeju-atbalsta-kontaktpunkts> and <https://uznemeji.riga.lv/>. Our members are to be advised of this organization.

### **Monday, April 28th, 2025** - Show & Tell: 36 registered, 36 attended, all paid. There were 21 presentations, four by non-members each who paid €100.00. Presentations are posted in the CanCham [web site](https://cancham.lv/show--tell/show-and-tell-28042025). [Report](https://cancham.lv/NEWS/01052025-report-on-canchams-show--tell).

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Saturday, May 17th, 2025 –** PossibleMeeting with Vic Fedeli - Minister of Economic Development of the Ontario Provincial Government was being arranged, but the Minister’s schedule could not accommodate a CanCham event.

### **Thursday, May 23rd, 2025 at 18.30 –** CanCham Corner – Informal Networking. Was considered as an alternative, but the decision made not to proceed and concentrate on major events.

### **Monday, June 9th, 2025** – Focus on Canada and the Canadian Elections.

* The Speech from the Throne will be delivered on May 27th outlining Canadian government policy. Ambassador Brian Szwarc will provide an update of the main points raised and how they relate to Latvia.
* The event is expected to take place at the Pullman Hotel.
* The seating format used in the recent Show & Tell will be used (i.e. auditorium seating with stand-up tables at the back where finger food and drinks will be available.
* Other chambers are to be invited.
* 250513 – EK/NL to determine title for event.

### **Tuesday, July 1st, 2025 at 16.00** – Canada Day at RigaApartment.com Sonada Hotel.

* Third-party catering will be used. Tinto is being considered.
* Details to be confirmed in the following weeks.

# Other Business

* No other business.

# Next meeting: To be arranged