

Date: Monday, August 3, 2026

Place: ZOOM

Attending: Board: Andris Kesteris, Ed Kalvins, Ieva Mežule, Indra Sproģe-Kalviņa, Mark Watson,
Normunds Kupcis, Una Brūna,
Canadian Embassy: Nicolas Lepage,
Audit Committee: Astrida Bola,

Absent: Dzintra Renigere, Sam Davidovich, Sintija Frienberga, Zanda Līva Locika

Chair: Ed Kalvins

Minutes: Ed Kalvins

Minutes of Meeting:

1.1 Approval of MR-2602: Approved

2 Organizational

2.1 AGM 2027

- 251020 EK to investigate the use of an electronic voting system for the AGM to allow off-site voting.
 - Mārtiņš Āriņš of Click Scale has been asked to provide a quote and is prepared to organize this for the AGM.
- 260504 UB to investigate with AmCham / other organizations regarding electronic voting systems.

2.2 Strategic Partnership Initiative (SPI)

- The SPI database has 575 entries of which 202 are from Canada.
- Basic parameters that have been agreed by the SPI Group:
 - The top priority is to attract Canadian companies as members to CanCham Latvia.
 - The overall objective is to attract Canadian companies to NE Europe and to partner with our members and extended local network so that they can benefit from the sales networks in Europe of our local network.
 - Provide direct business opportunities for CanCham members who offer market entry, legal and/or accounting services.
 - SPI Coordinators are to approach Canadian chambers, business organizations and municipalities in Canada with the offer of cooperation through partnership arrangements which will provide CanCham reps access to their memberships to promote CanCham's SPI program and create awareness of what CanCham has to offer withing the Canadian business community.
 - Sell sheets promoting CanCham will be used as introductory information.
 - Sell sheets promoting CanCham's members and Canadian companies will be used to promote their services.
 - €20 to 25k available from the Embassy to support specific projects. Sell sheet generations seems to fit. March 2027
- Current participants include:
 - from Canada: Aira Darzins (Muskoka), Andris Kesteris (Ottawa), Arnis Rozītis (Calgary), Karen Verbeek (Aurora), Reinis Briedis (Barrie), Susan Mogensen (Ottawa)
 - from Latvia: Daiga Bauer, Ed Kalvins, Liene Sestule, Mārtiņš Āriņš
 - Specialists:
 - Defense: Andris Kesteris (Ottawa), Arnis Rozītis (Calgary), Liene Sestule (Latvia)
 - IT: Mārtiņš Āriņš (Latvia)
 - Construction: Daiga Bauer (Latvia)

2.3 Board and Audit member roles (strategy discussion)

- It was decided to defer last meeting's decision on providing role and responsibility descriptions for Board and Audit Committee members to a later date.
- 260803 - MW to draft the high-level strategy for CanCham, including key planks such as SPI and the Advisory Council, and circulate it for board discussion.

- Concerns were raised about the need for clearer messaging regarding CanCham's relationship with TFL and DCC, emphasizing the importance of transparency and ethical guidelines for member communications.
- A more structured approach to strategy development and board involvement in decision-making processes was advocated.
- Questions were raised about the transparency and governance framework surrounding funding decisions, emphasizing the need for clear processes and involvement of all board members in decision-making rather than having decisions made by a small group. The discussion also touched on the need to develop a top-level strategy before addressing specific initiatives like SPI and corporate governance structure. It was suggested starting with the overall strategy, followed by key sub-strategies like SPI and an advisory council, before addressing organizational structure and corporate governance frameworks.

3 Finance

3.1 Current Financial position as of Monday, August 3rd, 2026.

Date	30.12.2024	28.09.2025	29.12.2025	01.05.2026	03.08.2026
Cash on hand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cash in bank	3,033.28	6890.94	9171.33	11,273.28	9,526.64
Total cash available	3,033.28	6890.94	9171.33	11,273.28	9,526.64
Accounts payable	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Net financial position	3,033.28	6890.94	9171.33	11,273.28	9,526.64

3.2 Budget vs Actual up to end of July, 2026

- Budget: €5,886
- Actual: €7,820

4 Membership

4.1 New Members

- 26.06.2026 Glimstedt, Silver

Note: Most of the new members are a result of the February, 2026 DCC Procurement seminar.

4.2 Renewals:

- Baltic Restaurants Latvia, Silver
- Gosselin Mobility Baltics, Bronze
- Tinto, Bronze
- Smart Move Relocation, Bronze
- TP Riga, Bronze promoted to Silver
- Latvian American Eye Centre, Bronze promoted to Silver
- Pullman Riga Old Town, Bronze

4.3 Not Renewed Yet

- European Recreational and Oldtimers Hockey Association, Individual
- R Birojs, Individual
- FF International Movers, Bronze
- CPB Connecting Property and Business, Bronze
- RTU Int'l School of Science & Technology, Bronze
- B and C Restaurants - Indian Raja, Silver

4.4 Will not be Renewing

- Partners in Relocation Group

4.5 Active Members in Good Standing as of August 1st, 2026

Level	30.12.2024	29.12.2025	31.01.2026	01.08.2026
Gold	1	4	7	7

Silver	5	13	13	17
Bronze	18	29	30	35
Individual	1	2	3	4
Total	25	48	53	63

5 Events & Programs

5.1 Past Events

- 5.1.1 Wednesday, June 3rd, 2026 – A farewell reception for Ambassador Brian Szwarc. Mogotel Hotel. 57 registered. 51 attended.
- 5.1.2 Wednesday, July 1st, 2026, 16.00 to 20.00 – Canada Day BBQ RigaApartment.com Sonada Hotel Gardens, 43 registered. 43 attended. All paid.
- 5.1.3 Every Thursday – SPI Coordinators

5.2 Upcoming Events

- 5.2.1 Thursday, September 3rd, 2026 at 18.30, CanCham Corner, Tinto “Wine Library”, Elizabetes 59
- 5.2.2 Monday, September 28th, 16.00 – Show & Tell, Radisson Latvija
 - Survey for participants to be sent out this week.
 - Canadian companies will be able to present and/or participate via ZOOM.
 - The issue of cost to presentations from Canada was deferred.
- 5.2.3 Monday, October 12th, 18.30. Canadian Thanksgiving Dinner, Radisson Elizabete
 - Price last year: €45.80, this year: €52.00. Charge €55.00 for members, €60.00 non-members
 - NL indicated that the new ambassador could be the speaker.
- 5.2.4 November 2nd, 12.00 to 15.00 - TFL Procurement Seminar.
 - Radisson Blu Daugava Hotel – same price as in February.
 - Invite participation of other chambers.
- 5.2.5 CanChams of Europe meeting in Paris scheduled week of November 24th, 2026. (discussion deferred)
- 5.2.6 Monday, December 14th 18.30 – CanCham Christmas. Pullman. (discussion deferred)
- 5.2.7 2027 AGM
 - It was proposed to move the AGM to mid-February rather than the end of January. Current processes require information to members to be sent out three weeks before an AGM. Complete financial reports to the end of the financial year are only available on December 31st. This does not allow time for the Board and Audit Committee time to review the actual results for the year.
 - The 2027 AGM will now be scheduled for Monday, February 15th, 2027.
 - Board and Audit Committee to be elected (discussion deferred)
 - ZOOM connection and voting process (discussion deferred)

6 Other Business

6.1 Video Communications including

- 250925 Board to discuss CanCham Show & Tell Member Presentations - Zoom video connection
 - Mārtiņš Āriņš has been asked to provide a proposal for handling ZOOM connections.

Canadian Chamber of Commerce
in Latvia

Board of Directors Meeting

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- 6.2** CanCham responsibilities towards the CAF
- 250929 – The Board is to discuss this situation.
 - 260207 - The Board agreed that NL will address these issues in the manner he considers appropriate. The Board will monitor developments over the coming months while remaining committed to supporting TFL when requested.
 - This is still an issue that needs to be addressed. (discussion deferred)
- 6.3** Web Site
- 251020 EK to discuss upgrades with Harijs Ozols. (discussion deferred)
- 7** **Next meeting:** Monday, October 5th, 2026.
- Join ZOOM meeting at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84464406479?pwd=YM87NQoaa18CbRHYVnLAvhqnlNSyZ.1>