



Canadian  
Polish  
Congress  
British  
Columbia

Canadian Polish Congress BC  
Annual Report  
2022-2023

Yearly Report  
2022 - 2023



## CANADIAN POLISH CONGRESS BC 2022-2023 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Board Members, Supporters, Polonia,

As we come to the end of another successful year, we are proud to present our annual report for the Canadian Polish Congress BC Branch. We have had an eventful year filled with many accomplishments and milestones. Our organization has continued to be a strong voice for the Polish community in British Columbia and we are pleased to share some of the highlights of our activities.

In January, we commemorated the 40th anniversary of B.C.'s Polish Sailor refugees, an event that was largely forgotten even among Poles. We were grateful for the attention our community received from the [BC Catholic NewsPaper](#).

In March, we took part in the National Day of Cursed Soldiers. \*\*\*SOMETHING MISSING HERE\*\*\*

organized a Facebook event alongside the Ukrainian Canadian Congress BC to support Ukraine. With thousands of people in attendance

We celebrated the 20th anniversary of Belweder in March, and took part in the commemoration of the Katyn massacre and plane catastrophe in Smolensk.

In April, our Women's Federation President (Janina Freyman) made the front cover of the Richmond News, and we attended to say farewell to WWII Hero Captain Zenon Przybylak 99 years old with the SPK and Belweder.

In May, we successfully lobbied municipal governments to proclaim Polonia Day, and organized events such as the May Constitution Day at PVA/SPK, in addition we organized an event to lay down flowers on the birthday of John Paul II located on John Paul II street in Vancouver, and the BC Polish Festival in Port Coquitlam. We were also invited to take part in May Constitution Day in Victoria held by the White Eagle Society.

In June, Belweder North Shore Polish Association participated in the Bridge Festival in West Vancouver with a Polish Pavilion.

KPK BC was formally invited to take part in the annual Polish Parish Days. We also organized a charity concert "A concert for peace" which raised \$4200 for Ukrainian refugees living in Poland. KPK BC was on Global BC and on TVP3 Poznan related to this event.

In July, we took part in the Polish Canadian Art Fusion Exhibition organized by TriCity Polonez, and the annual World Day of Refugees and migrants' mass at Our Lady of Sorrows organized by the Federation of Polish Women. Belweder North Shore Polish Association signed a letter of cooperation with MONOVA - North Vancouver Museum and Archives.

In August, we organized Black Ribbon Day at the Vancouver art gallery, the biggest Black Ribbon Day event in BC, and were featured on Global BC and CTV Vancouver.

In September, we successfully lobbied for Polish Heritage Month to be proclaimed by the British Columbia's government, we were gifted with the proclamation by Hon. Bruce Ralston during the Vancouver Polish Festival organized by Belweder.

In November, Belweder North Shore Polish Association organized a tribute concert to the well-known Polish Canadian composer - Ryszard Wrzaskala.

Also in November took place the 104 Polish Independence Day celebration organized by White Eagle Polish Association in Victoria. The congress representative awarded diplomas to recognize contributions to Polish Canadian community in Victoria.

in December, we organized the Information Warfare Defence Workshop with Ukrainian, Lithuanian, Latvian, and Estonian societies.

In December, we also took part in a mass and event to mark the 41st anniversary of martial law and Solidarity, with MP Tomasz Kmiec in attendance.

In December, we also gained a new member into the Canadian Polish Congress BC branch, White Eagle Polish Association in Victoria.

These events and activities would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of our members and volunteers. We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has contributed to the success of our organization throughout the year. We look forward to continuing our work in the coming year and strengthening our ties with the Polish community in British Columbia.

**Sincerely,**

**President – Michael K. Dembek**

**Vice President – Iwona Swiatczak**

**Vice President – Filip Jaworski**

**Treasurer – Izabela Sobieski**

**Board of Directors / Committee Members**

**Beata Grotkowska**

**Andrzej Dobrowolski**

**Liz Narodowski**

**Andrzej Kopczynski**

**Janina Freyman**

**Urszula Sulinska**

**Antoni Kostka**

**Elzbieta Skrzymowska**

**Danuta Potworowska,  
Canadian Polish Congress British Columbia**