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## Are Poland and Canada : becoming close partners?

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## **ARE POLAND AND CANADA: BECOMING CLOSE PARTNERS?**

### **ABSTRACT**

The author presents relations between Canada and Poland in 21<sup>st</sup> century. He explains the reasons for the lack of close connections between the two countries. Then, he recognizes few historical links, focusing on Polish migration to Canada. Afterwards, he describes official diplomatic relations by presenting meetings of politicians from both countries in 20<sup>th</sup> century. The foundation of relations between countries in modern world is economics, which is presented in next part. The author presents facts about trade and investment. In next part, he describes the Polish community in Canada, focusing on the Canadian Polish Congress and other organizations that play an important role in life of Polish minority. Finally, the two most important events of last decade of bilateral relations are presented: death of a Polish immigrant that was tasered in Vancouver and recent takeover of Quadra FNX, a Canadian mining company, by the Polish copper corporation KGHM. The author describes the incident with Robert Dziekanski, presenting the reaction to it by Canadians and Poles, as well as the results of the investigation. He also gives facts about

### **STRESZCZENIE**

Autor przedstawia – w swym artykule – stan stosunków między Kanadą a Polską w XXI wieku. Wyjaśnia powody niezbyt bliskich związków między tymi państwami. Ukazuje też kilka historycznych związków między nimi, skupiając się na polskiej emigracji do Kanady. Następnie przechodzi do opisu oficjalnych stosunków dyplomatycznych, prezentując spotkania przywódców obu państw w XX wieku. Znaczenie współczesnych relacji gospodarczych omówione zostało w dalszej części artykułu, gdzie Autor przedstawia fakty dotyczące handlu i inwestycji. W dalszych rozważaniach opisuje społeczność polską w Kanadzie, zwłaszcza Canadian Polish Congress i inne organizacje, odgrywające znaczącą rolę w życiu polskiej mniejszości. Wreszcie, omówione zostają dwa najważniejsze wydarzenia z ostatniej dekady stosunków bilateralnych: śmierć polskiego imigranta w wyniku zatrzymania w Vancouver i niedawne przejęcie kanadyjskiej spółki wydobywczej Quadra FNX przez polskie KGHM. Autor opisuje incydent z Robertem Dziekanskim, ukazując reakcję strony kanadyjskiej i polskiej oraz wyniki dochodzenia. Również, rozważa przejęcie Quadra

KGHM's purchase of Quadra FNX and explains what this transaction means to the Polish company. The author concludes by deliberating about perspectives of relations between Canada and Poland.

**Key words**

Poland, Canada, Polish community in Canada, Robert Dziekanski, KGHM

FNX przez KGHM i tłumaczy znaczenie tej transakcji dla polskiej spółki. Konkludując, Autor rozważa przyszłość stosunków kanadyjsko-polskich.

**Słowa kluczowe**

Polska, Kanada, polska społeczność w Kanadzie, Robert Dziekanski, KGHM

The first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century was the time of a slow, but noticeable rise of Poland in the arena of international politics. After the collapse of communism in 1989, Poland went through series of distressing, but necessary reforms that allowed the country to enter the path of economic prosperity. As a result, an increase of Poland's participation in world politics has been observed over last thirteen years. The Polish diplomatic efforts were primarily directed towards European Union countries, the United States, and Eastern Europe. However, Polish foreign ministers have also been trying to increase the presence of Poland in regions and countries that are not natural partners of Poland. One of these countries is Canada.

Despite the fact that Canada is the second largest country in the world and has eleventh biggest economy,<sup>1</sup> close relations with Canada has not been crucial for Poland over the years. Actually, from the countries that were members of original G8 Group, Polish diplomacy has paid the least attention to relations with Canada. The main reasons of foregoing a relationship with Canada are of a geographical and historic character. The former is that the distance between both countries is wide and the fact that Canada's neighbor (the United States) is among most powerful countries and Polish diplomatic efforts were focused on it. The latter reasons are the results of both countries' short histories of being independent in the same time period. The beginnings of Canada's autonomy occurred during the time when Poland did not exist on world's maps. After World War I, both countries established diplomatic relations in 1919, however, bilateral contact was through the Polish embassy in London. The Polish government-in-exile established the first official diplomatic post in 1942. After World War II,

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<sup>1</sup> *World Development Indicators Databases*, World Bank, 9 July 2012, <http://www.databank.worldbank.org/databank/download/GDP.pdf> [access: 23.06.2012].

the relations between both states was tense due to the fact of that both countries were members of mutually hostile alliances. In 1960, the status of the diplomatic posts was mutually raised to embassies.

Obviously, the first contact between Canada and Poland had occurred much earlier than diplomatic ones. Although, Canada was usually not the first choice for a new home of Poles traveling to North America, there has been a significant Polish migration to Canada. The first wave of Polish immigration occurred after the partition of Poland at the end of 18<sup>th</sup> century. Many Poles, usually well educated and affluent, had to leave their homeland because of the occupier's policies.<sup>2</sup> The first Polish settlement in Canada was Wilno, which was established around 1858 in Ontario. The next period of Poles immigrating to Canada falls occurred during the first three decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. During that time, most of the immigrants from Poland traveled to Canada due to harsh the economic situation in their homeland. This changed after World War II broke out. The main reasons to immigrate to Canada became political. Poles were fleeing their country due to the German occupation and subsequent period Soviet-enforced communism. Nowadays, Poles constitute one of the largest ethnic minorities in Canada. In the 2006 census, over 984 thousand people acknowledged Polish ancestry, of which 269,375 stated it is their only ethnic background.<sup>3</sup> This makes Poles the fourteenth largest minority group in Canada.

## 1. Diplomatic relations

The overthrow of communism in Poland allowed for the initiating of a new direction in diplomatic relations between the two countries. The free and sovereign Polish government was able to conduct new international policy and start friendly relations with countries from a previously enemy alliance. In 1989, Lech Walesa, the leader of the Solidarity movement, traveled to Canada. In the following year, Polish Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki paid an official visit to Canada. The two visits established a solid foundation for future bilateral relations and cooperation and were developed during the second visit of Lech Walesa, this time official, in September 1994.

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<sup>2</sup> A. Wróbel, P. Wróbel, *Kanada* [Canada], Warszawa 2000, s. 225.

<sup>3</sup> Ethnocultural Portrait of Canada – Data Table, Statistics Canada, <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/hlt/97-562/pages/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo=PR&Code=01&Data=Count&Table=2&StartRec=1&Sort=3&Display=All&CSDFilter=5000> [access: 23.06.2012].

In January 1999, just a few months before it joined NATO, Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien visited Poland. During the two-day stay, the head of Canadian government met Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski and Prime Minister Jerzy Buzek. Also, Chretien went to see the Nazi concentration camp Auschwitz. It caused some controversy among Polish Canadians, because members of the Canadian Polish Congress were not invited to accompany the Prime Minister during the visit.<sup>4</sup> In 2006, the Canadian foreign minister, Peter MacKay, visited Warsaw where he met with his counterpart, Anna Fotyga. During the meeting, cooperation in Afghanistan and visa program were discussed.

In February 2008, Polish foreign minister, Radoslaw Sikorski, paid a visit to Canada. The main topics discussed during his meetings with Canadian politicians were military cooperation in Afghanistan and the inclusion of Polish citizens in Canada's visa-free program. The negotiations about visa program were successful and, in March 2008, the Canadian government lifted the visa requirements for Poles. Two months later, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper arrived in Poland, where he met with Prime Minister Donald Tusk and former President Lech Walesa. During these meetings, Polish politicians personally expressed their gratitude for the removal of the visa requirements. Furthermore, the Social Security Agreement, which regulates pension benefits between Canada and Poland, was signed during the visit.<sup>5</sup> Following his predecessor, Prime Minister Harper visited the Auschwitz concentration camp. A few months later, after long negotiations, representatives of both states signed the Youth Mobility Agreement. It allowed young people (between the ages of 18 and 35) to travel and work in both states for a year. The Youth Mobility Program provides opportunities for Canadians and Poles to discover one another's countries, learn about their cultures, and gain new work skills and experience. According to Piotr Ogrodziński, who served as the Polish Ambassador in Ottawa between 2004 and 2009, the unprecedented advance in bilateral relations between the countries was caused by an increase of the Polish contingent in Afghanistan. In his opinion, Prime Minister Harper, who repeatedly had shown a lot of concern about the

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<sup>4</sup> *Canada's Polish Community Upset over Exclusion from Auschwitz Visit*, website of JTA, <http://www.jta.org/news/article/1999/01/25/2927/CanadasPolishcomm> [access: 23.06.2012].

<sup>5</sup> *Prime Minister Harper Signs Key Agreements during Visit to Poland*, website of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada, [http://www.afghanistan.gc.ca/canada-afghanistan/news-nouvelles/2008/2008\\_04\\_04.aspx?lang=eng&view=d](http://www.afghanistan.gc.ca/canada-afghanistan/news-nouvelles/2008/2008_04_04.aspx?lang=eng&view=d) [access: 23.06.2012].

insufficient number of troops in Afghanistan, appreciated Poland sending an additional 1,200 Polish soldiers to reinforce ISAF in 2007.<sup>6</sup>

In May 2012, Prime Minister Donald Tusk visited Canada to acknowledge the good relations between the countries and to develop cooperation in many field of interests. The Polish delegation was mainly interested in the Canadian experience with shale gas, energy sources, and joint military cooperation in Afghanistan. In a joint statement, Prime Ministers Harper and Tusk focused on environmentally friendly energy sources and stated their concern about greenhouse gas emission. The Canadian politician promised to help Poland with introducing new technologies, especially regarding nuclear power.<sup>7</sup> Moreover, during Donald Tusk's visit, a new tax convention was signed to reduce barriers in economic cooperation between the countries.

Canada and Poland are both full members NATO, OECD, WHO, OSCE, and the UN. Therefore, their cooperation usually carried out through these organizations. For Poland, relations between Canada and the European Union are also vital. For the last few years, there have been negotiations about a free trade agreement between the EU and Canada, which is called The Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). For Canada, the main reasons to improve relations with the EU are growing disappointment in Canada with the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and efforts to become less dependable on economic situation in the United States. The Government of Canada is tired of constant issues with NAFTA that are raised up by their southern neighbor. Moreover, there is a common belief that economic problems of the United States may pull down the Canadian economy. The agreement is not only supposed to promote free trade, but also regulate other issues like employment, taxes, and intellectual property. The last matter caused controversies about CETA in Europe. The regulations about intellectual property included in the agreement are comparable to the infamous ACTA.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> *Silna Polska to silna Polonia* [A Strong Poland is a Strong Polonia], website of Gazeta Gazeta, <http://www.gazetagazeta.com/cgi-artman/exec/view.cgi?archive=172&num=22804> [access: 23.06.2012].

<sup>7</sup> *Joint Statement by Canada and the Republic of Poland on Energy Cooperation*, website of Natural Resources Canada, <http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/media-room/news-release/2012/60/6221> [access: 23.06.2012].

<sup>8</sup> *Teraz przyglądamy się CETA* [Now We Look at the CETA], <http://prawo.vagla.pl/node/9816> [access: 23.06.2012]; John Clancy, spokesman of European Trade Commission denied that CETA contains ACTA articles, he stated that they had been rejected during the negotiations.

## 2. Economic cooperation

When one thinks about the economic relations between Poland and North America, the first thought is usually about the United States. In 2011, the value of trade between Poland and the United States reached 8.5 billion USD. Economic relations with Canada compared to the ones with the United States seem insignificant. In 2011, the total value of trade between Poland and Canada totaled around 1.1 billion USD.<sup>9</sup> However, in the case of Canada, the most important is the dynamics of bilateral economic exchange. According to the Consulate General of Poland in Montreal, during last decade, the value of trade between Poland and Canada has quadrupled. In 2001, the value of economic exchange reached around 423 million CAD and, in 2011, it was about 1.690 billion CAD.<sup>10</sup> These figures show that Canada has become an increasingly important business partner for Poland. However, it is essential to emphasize that Poland is 20<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world and it is only the 53<sup>rd</sup> largest recipient of Canadian merchandise (251 million CAD). It appears that Polish side has put more effort into improving economic relations between the two states. Poland was 35<sup>th</sup> largest supplier of goods to Canada in 2011 (1,438 million CAD). The trade balance is positive for Poland and it reached 1,145 million CAD.<sup>11</sup>

Polish exports to Canada are not very diverse. Silver constitutes almost 36% Polish exports to Canada. Poland is Canada's largest supplier of silver in unwrought form. The second largest Polish export to Canada aerospace components and parts (20.6%) while the third largest Canadian import of Polish goods is furniture (almost 5%). Among other important merchandise are transmission shafts and cranks, mink fur skins, medicine, coke and semi coke of coal, chocolate, and vodka.

The Canadian exports to Poland are much more diverse. The first place is occupied by parts of turbo jets or jet propellers, which makes up 10.7% of exports to Poland. It is the only good that has share over 10%. Other significant Canadian exports are aluminum and related products, flywheels and pulleys,

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<sup>9</sup> *Notatka o stosunkach gospodarczych Polski z Kanadą* [Note on Polish Economic Relations with Canada], website of Polish Ministry of Economy, <http://www.mg.gov.pl/Wspolpraca+z+zagranica/Wspolpraca+gospodarcza+Polski+z+krajami+wschodnimi+i+pozaeuropejskimi/Kanada.htm> [access: 24.06.2012].

<sup>10</sup> CAD – symbol of Canadian dolar.

<sup>11</sup> *Trade Exchange between Poland and Canada*, website of Consulate General of Poland in Montreal, [http://montreal.trade.gov.pl/en/polska/article/detail,1837,Trade\\_exchange\\_between\\_Poland\\_and\\_Canada\\_in\\_2011.html](http://montreal.trade.gov.pl/en/polska/article/detail,1837,Trade_exchange_between_Poland_and_Canada_in_2011.html) [access: 24.06.2012].

gas turbines, turbo-propellers, iron, zinc ores, and parts of power transmission. In January 2012, Polish airlines Eurolot bought eight Bombardier Q400 planes from Canadian-based Bombardier Inc. The transaction was worth around 130 million USD.<sup>12</sup> It is another example of Polish-Canadian cooperation in aerospace industry. Pratt and Whitney Canada, a company that produces aircraft engines has been investing in Poland for almost 30 years.

The geographical configuration of Polish exports to Canada is also interesting. The Province of Quebec is recipient of more than 58% of merchandise from Poland. Ontario comes in second with 27.16% and third place belongs to Alberta with 7.06%. With regards to Canadian exports to Poland, the first supplier is Ontario (47.2%), which is followed by Quebec (27.6%) and Alberta (7.61%).

According to the National Bank of Poland, Canadian direct investment in Poland reached 600 million Euros in 2011. To largest investors in Poland are:

- Pratt and Whitney (aircraft engines);
- ESI Ecosystem International (renewable energy);
- Bombardier Transportation (rail equipment);
- Hydro Quebec (hydroelectric power);
- SNC Lavalin (engineering);
- McCain International (frozen food).

Until 2012, Polish direct investment in Canada was really mediocre. The National Bank of Poland estimated that Polish FDI in Canada reached 11 million CAD in 2011.<sup>13</sup> In 2012, the situation changed when the Polish copper corporation KGHM acquired Canadian mining company Quadra FNX for around 2.9 billion CAD. This was one of the most important events in the relations between both countries and it has to be examined separately.

### 3. Polish community in Canada

As it was mentioned previously, almost a million Canadians claim at least partial Polish ancestry. Among the most respectable citizens of Canada with Polish roots is legendary hockey player Wayne Gretzky, whose father was of Polish-Belarusian origin. Other Canadian professional athletes with Polish ancestors are Aleksandra Wozniak (tennis), Tomasz Radziński (football), and Rafał Wolski

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<sup>12</sup> *Eurolot kupi Bombardiery* [Eurolot Will Buy Bombardier], website of Puls Biznesu, <http://logistyka.pb.pl/2563807,64470,eurolot-kupi-bombardiery> [access: 24.06.2012].

<sup>13</sup> *Notatka o stosunkach gospodarczych Polski z Kanadą*, op.cit.



(NHL). Actor William Shatner and Don Mazankowski, who served in 1991–93 as Minister of Finance in Canada, also declared having Polish roots.

The main Polish organization in Canada is the Canadian Polish Congress. Its main goals are representing the interests of the Polish minority in Canada and promoting Polish culture and heritage. Over 200 smaller organizations belong to the Canadian Polish Congress. The most important are:

- Canadian Polish Millennium Fund: culture promotion and Polish language preservation;
- Polish Alliance of Canada: promotion of Polish tradition;
- Polish Canadian Women Foundation;
- Polish Scouting Association in Canada;
- Polish Teachers Association in Canada – teaching Polish language and history;
- Canadian Polish Research Institute – study of Polish minority in Canada.

The Polish community in Canada is really active and tries to organize Polish schooling and cultural life. In Toronto, the center of Polish minority, there is a Polish radio station and two newspapers – “Zycie” (printed weekly) and “Gazeta” (printed three times a week, plus one weekend edition).

#### **4. Death of Robert Dziekanski**

There are not many publications in Polish media about Canada. Probably the most frequent topics are Quebec independence and sport information. However in October 2007, Polish media were focused on one topic – death of Robert Dziekanski. On 13<sup>th</sup> October 2007 Dziekanski, a miner from Poland, flew to Vancouver to visit his mother that lived in Kamloops, British Columbia. After spending 10 hours at the airport waiting for his visa to be processed, he became agitated. Because of Dziekanski’s anxious behavior and the impossibility to communicate with him (Dziekanski did not speak English) airport guards called the police. During the police intervention, he was tasered numerous times. Dziekanski’s heart stopped, but he did not receive CPR until the paramedics arrived 15 minutes later. The death of a Polish immigrant was shocking not only for the Polish community in Canada and people and Poland, but also for Canadians. Especially after it was revealed that the last moments of Dziekanski’s life were video-recorded by a witness and subsequently uploaded the video to YouTube. The violent death of Dziekanski was something unusual in Canada. The Polish embassy received many letters from Canadians that expressed both sympathy and outrage about the situation.

The Polish embassy in Canada requested the Government of Canada conduct a full investigation into the incident and provide full access to information about the results of the investigation. Also, the Canadian Ambassador in Poland was asked to come to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where cooperation between Polish and Canadian investigators was discussed. In November, Polish lawyers were sent to Vancouver to meet with local coroners. However, the cooperation of Polish and Canadian investigators had not been successful. In 2011, the public prosecutor in Gliwice decided to discontinue the investigation due to lack of assistance from Canadian side.<sup>14</sup> Investigators in Poland had not received any evidence or documents from their Canadian counterparts. Four police officers, whose actions had led to Dziekanski's death, were only accused of providing false testimony and the cause of Dziekanski's death was listed as an accident.

In 2010, Judge Thomas Braidwood concluded a special report into Dziekanski's death. In the report, Dziekanski's behavior was described as harmless and, in the author's opinion, the Pole was not aggressive towards the police officers. Therefore, the usage of a Taser was unjustified and rash. Furthermore, Braidwood stated that police officers' testimony was clearly unbelievable and their behavior was shameful. As a consequence of the report, the authorities decided to reconsider criminal charges for the police officers involved with Dziekanski's death.<sup>15</sup> However, their investigation has already faced setbacks and it is very probable that the case will be discontinued.

The incident was particularly unpleasant for Canadians, especially considering that the whole world was able to watch the video on YouTube. Dziekanski's death became a widely discussed topic in Canada and led to changes being implemented with airport security. It also might have contributed to the Canadian government's decision to remove visa requirements for Poles. Before that incident, many politicians in Canada were reluctant to permit unhindered travel by Poles to Canada.

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<sup>14</sup> *Gliwicka prokuratura umorzyła śledztwo ws. śmierci Dziekańskiego* [Gliwice's Prosecutors Dropped an Investigation into the Death of Dziekanski], website of *Dziennik Zachodni*, <http://www.dziennikzachodni.pl/artykul/486282,glIWicka-prokuratura-umorzyIa-sledztwo-ws-smierci,id,t.html> [access: 31.06.2012].

<sup>15</sup> *Raport ws. śmierci Dziekańskiego: Haniebne zachowanie. Ponownie wszczęto śledztwo* [The Report into the Death of Dziekanski: Infamous Behavior. Re-opened the Investigation], website of *Gazeta.pl*, [http://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/1,114873,8035152,Raport\\_ws\\_\\_smierci\\_Dziekanskiego\\_\\_Haniebne\\_zachowanie\\_.html](http://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/1,114873,8035152,Raport_ws__smierci_Dziekanskiego__Haniebne_zachowanie_.html) [access: 31.06.2012].

## 5. KGHM takes over Quadra

The information about Poland-based KGHM's plans to acquire Canada's Quadra was revealed in the beginning of December 2011. However, the friendly takeover had already been in the motions for many months prior to the announcement. Although, there had been rumors about KGHM plans to expand, the direction in which the Polish company was moving was a surprise. Initially, experts in both countries considered the takeover unfavorable. In Canada, it was believed that Quadra was worth more and that another company might have tried to offer higher bid.<sup>16</sup> Polish experts said that KGHM was overpaying and that the deal also meant troubles for the company's largest shareholder – Polish government, which was hoping for a high dividend. The highly criticized deal was finalized and KGHM paid 2.94 billion CAD, which amounted to 15 CAD for each share of Quadra. This deal was financed from KGHM's profits for 2011, which upset the company shareholders, who were waiting for a high dividend payment on their shares. The announcement of the deal resulted in an 8% decrease in the value of KGHM shares within a day of the plan being revealed.<sup>17</sup>

The transaction opened up new opportunities for KGHM. Quadra owned several copper mines in Canada, the United States, and Chile. The last location is especially promising. The copper-molybdenum mine built in cooperation with Japanese company Sumimoto will facilitate a significant decrease the average unit copper price.<sup>18</sup> A molybdenum mine in Greenland that remains under construction also looks promising. With KGHM's takeover of Quadra FNX, KGHM also acquired qualified managers with a lot of experience in the mining business. It may be very helpful for company that is owned by state and politicians decide about main positions.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> *Copper Prices Retreat; KGHM Bids for Quadra FNX*, website of Cooper InvestingNews, <http://copperinvestingnews.com/8981/copper-prices-kghm-quadrafnx-xstrata/> [access: 01.08.2012].

<sup>17</sup> *KGHM to Buy Quadra FNX for \$2.84 Billion to Add Copper Mines*, website of Bloomberg Business Week, <http://www.businessweek.com/news/2011-12-07/kghm-to-buy-quadra-fnx-for-2-84-billion-to-add-copper-mines.html> [access: 01.08.2012].

<sup>18</sup> *Report 40/2011: Agreement Regarding the Purchase of the Shares of Quadra FNX Mining Ltd.*, website of KGHM Polska Miedz SA, <http://www.kghm.pl/index.dhtml?module=articles&id=4606&lang=en> [access: 01.08.2012].

<sup>19</sup> *KGHM kupi firmę Quadra. Czy to się opłaci?* [KGHM Will Buy Quadra Company. Will It Pay off?], website of Bankier.pl, <http://www.bankier.pl/wiadomosc/KGHM-kupi-firme-Quadra-Czy-to-sie-oplaci-2451713.html> [access: 01.08.2012].

## 6. Conclusion

Countries engage in friendly relations when they have common interest. For decades, it seemed that except for the large Polish community in Canada, there was nothing that connected either country. In 21<sup>st</sup> century, however, a change in the relations between Poland and Canada can be observed. People in Warsaw and Ottawa have finally discovered more and more common issues and have decided to deepen relations. It has started with Canada being the first country to support the accession of Poland to NATO. It continued with the military presence of both countries in Afghanistan and cooperation to win the global war on terror. After the Canadian government decided to increase its cooperation with the European Union, they needed allies to succeed in CETA negotiation. Both countries learned more about each other during Dziekanski case. Finally, during last two years, economic cooperation between Canada and Poland has flourished. These closer relations occurred during the terms of Stephen Harper and Donald Tusk, who apparently have a good personal relationship, which likely benefited the relationship.

The question remains as to whether the closer relationship is a temporary situation and it will come to an end after the prime ministers change or if both countries plan to an even closer partnership. It is difficult to answer that question right now. Nowadays, the relations between Canada and Poland look promising, but both states do not perceive each other as genuinely important partners. There are a few factors that may change this situation. First of all, if CETA is signed, the economic presence of Canada in Europe will be more visible. The other factor that may help to improve bilateral relations is cooperation over shale gas in Poland. If rumors about large deposits of this resource in are confirmed, Poland may find Canadian experience regarding shale gas extraction helpful.

In recent years, Canada and Poland have become close partners, which is quite surprising when one compares the state of bilateral relations just fifteen years ago. Both states are taking advantage of their present connections and it seems that further cooperation may be even more beneficial. For Poland, it is vital to look for new partners outside of the European Union and the United States. KGHM's investment and the conclusion of CETA may bring two countries closer.