

**Diaspora communities in a global world– Canada - Hungary**

**Relations Today**

**Talk by**

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Ladies and gentlemen,

I have the great honour of addressing the annual conference of the Hungarian Studies Association of Canada, which is an outstanding joint cultural and academic event of Canadian Hungarian communities, scholars and researchers from Hungary.

Since the very beginnings the Association has devoted its activity to studying Hungarian culture and history at an academic level. The Hungarian Studies Review, published in close cooperation with the National Széchényi Library and the Hungarian Studies Association of the USA, since its launch has been an important forum for the scholarly exchange of views and discussions. The series of annual conferences since 1985 has been a real contribution to the development of the scientific study of Hungarology.

I would like to express my high appreciation for this hard work. The fact that we can welcome so many renowned scholars from Hungary also reflects the great values of this conference.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I have divided my talk into four parts.

Firstly, I am going to give a summary of the policy of the Republic of Hungary on Hungarians in the neighbouring countries and diasporas.

Secondly, I am going to speak about the current bilateral ties between Canada and Hungary,

Then, I would like to share with you how great values I have found among Canadian-Hungarians, Hungarian communities, their activities here in Canada,

Finally, I am going to draw some conclusions.

## I

### **About national policy, legal and institutional background**

Since the change in the political regime, all Hungarian governments have paid particular attention to national policy. It is a very special historical condition that the Hungarian nation lives in a triple geographical and political geometry: in the community of Hungarian citizens, in the indigenous minority Hungarian communities in the neighbouring countries and the diaspora. The cohesion, the responsibility for each other and the cooperation of different parts of the nation are based on our common language, historical identity and cultural heritage.

One of the most essential first steps in the shaping of a national policy was taken in 1989, when Ferenc Glatz, Minister of Education and Culture, opened all cultural and educational institutions for all Hungarians from the neighbouring countries and from the diaspora. Parallel with this process, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences established the institution of external membership for all Hungarian scientists living all over the world.

The constitutional basis for the national policy of the Hungarian state was created by the amendment of the Constitution in 1989, which introduced an absolutely new measure: 'The Republic of Hungary recognises its responsibility toward Hungarians living outside the borders of the country and shall assist them in fostering their relations to Hungary.' (Paragraph /5/ Article /3/) The implementation of this provision is an important constitutional task for all Hungarian governments. Besides the constitutional provision, a complex network of tools and institutions was set up.

In 1993 the Hungarian National Assembly adopted the *Act on National and Ethnic Minorities' Rights*. This Act broadly ensured the rights for the thirteen recognised national minorities in Hungary. This legislation had a double character: it was meant to ensure the treatment of national minorities on the equal footing, and in terms of foreign policy Hungary intended this act to be an example to be followed by its neighbours. Especially significant parts of this Act were the recognition of the collective rights and the declaration of preserving and maintaining the ties with the mother country.

In 1999 about 150 domestic legal sources dealt directly or indirectly with national policies.

The next relevant legislation was the *Act on Hungarians living in Neighbouring States* in June 2001. The first version of this law ignited harsh criticism from the neighbouring countries and the EU as well. The essence of their protests were: they felt that the law would practically interfere with the sovereignty of these countries. Finally Parliament modified the regulation after eliminating the basis of the criticism. The territorial validity of the Act on Hungarians is limited, not reaching the western diaspora.

The national policy during the last two decades has become a principal part of Hungarian external relations strategy. Hungary and its neighbours, the Hungarian nation, and the Hungarian identity are central elements of Hungarian foreign policy, always with very strong implications to domestic policy.

The Eastern enlargement of the EU signifies a historical change: it brought back more than 90% of Hungarians, separated by state borders, within the same economic and political boundaries. The accession opens a new period for Hungary in its relations with the neighbouring countries. It provides a new chance to overstep the old conflicts and the impacts of the two world wars. The removal of physical borders, the development of

local and regional autonomy, the cross-border economic cooperation, the decentralisation of state power – give new possibilities in the Central European region. But after the fifth anniversary of our EU membership we realize that lifting the political and psychological borders can only be a long term objective.

After the EU accession the Hungarian government redefined the main goals of its nation policy. This new policy is based on two pillars:

1. **Support policy:** meaning a calculable form of support based on joint consensus granted to institutions serving the preservation of national identity.
2. **Development policy:** as a new component of the national policy embodies joint regional and institutional development, as well as infrastructural and economy boosting programs.

The main institution of the support policy is the **Motherland Fund** (Szülőföld Alap), which established a separate financial fund to provide support for the development of entrepreneurship, as well as for regional and cross-border co-operation, and cultural and educational activities. Last year its budget amounted to more than HUF 2 billion. In 2007, from other sources the Hungarian state budget spent nearly HUF 12 billion on supporting Hungarian institutions and projects beyond the borders. Naturally, there is never enough money to support all important initiatives.

We can claim that the establishing of the institutional background of the national policy has been completed. The headquarters of the government's activity is The State Secretariat for Minorities and National Policies of the Prime Minister's Office (Miniszterelnöki Hivatal Kisebbségi és Nemzetpolitikai Államtitkársága ([www.nemzetpolitika.gov.hu](http://www.nemzetpolitika.gov.hu)), while policies are developed and operations carried out in the various ministries.

The Head of the State, the Hungarian National Assembly, local governments and civil organisations also make important contributions.

The activity of the Hungarian government mainly concentrates on the situation of the Hungarian communities in the neighbouring countries. Since I began my tenure here in Canada, many times I have had the opportunity to receive complaints about this. There is a special sad feeling in the Hungarian communities in Canada that the Hungarian government neglected their justifiable demands for support to preserve the language and national heritage. I must admit that the possibilities to apply for financial support from the Motherland Fund are restricted for communities of the Hungarian diaspora, except for Hungarians living in Austria.

Only after giving ‘first aid’ to Hungarian minorities in neighbouring countries, could we start evaluating the critical remarks from the western diaspora. To meet the demand, by the end of 2007, the Hungarian government worked out a comprehensive program for the western diaspora, whose situation is completely different from the Hungarians living in the neighbouring countries. The present diaspora consists mostly of professionals, who had left Hungary for different reasons, and integrated very well in their new homeland. Yet, these emigrants also wish to preserve the language and culture. Consequently, the program of the Hungarian government targets the promotion and preservation of the language and cultural identity of the western diaspora. It has five elements:

### **1. Grants and reimbursements**

#### **A) Training**

Student grants to take part in Hungarian higher education in the field of Hungarian language and literature, history, cultural heritage, art,

junior school, preschool and special needs teacher training – intended for Hungarians from non-EU countries.

B) Grants and reimbursement of travel expenses for librarians from Hungary to arrange libraries and archives of the Hungarian communities.

C) Grants and reimbursement of travel expenses of preschool and junior school teachers from Hungary who can provide methodology training for volunteer teachers in Hungarian community schools.

D) Reimbursement of travel expenses for priests and ministers from Hungary.

E) Reimbursement of travel expenses for artists from Hungary to disseminate the values of Hungarian culture in the diaspora

F) Reimbursement of travel expenses for groups of students, ensembles, professionals from cultural institutions, voluntary teachers from the diaspora for short term stays in Hungary – to take part in further training, conferences, performances.

## **2 New training packages**

A) In November 2008 **Kiliki on the Earth** (Kiliki a Földön), a new Hungarian language training package – textbooks and audio-visual materials - for kids was introduced by the Balassi Institute. Hungarian teachers in Canada have already had the chance to study it during the teacher training weekend organised by the embassy last August.

B) The latest development is **E-Hungarian** (E-magyarul),– it is a multimedia training package of Hungarian language for adults, suitable for self-study e-learning, its portal will open soon. It is also very useful that this training package has a 10 language dictionary of 2000 lexical units.

**3** The Hungarian government is **updating its data base** of Hungarian organisations of the diaspora to improve communication.

**4 The latest development is the launch of the Legacy (Hagyaték) 2009 program.** Its main goal is to save the considerable collections of educational and scientific materials created by members of the Hungarian diaspora for future generations. So Hungary would like to purchase, bring them home and place them in public institutions.

**5 Financial support for institutions of Hungarian communities** outside the Carpathian basin – to preserve and maintain Hungarian community centres, libraries.

For the first time in 2008 a separate financial support for Hungarian organisations was established.

The details of all these programs can be found on the websites of the Ministry of Education and Culture ([www.okm.gov.hu](http://www.okm.gov.hu)), and the Balassi Bálint Institute ([www.bbi.hu](http://www.bbi.hu)).

Although a great number of communities and volunteers do their best to maintain Hungarian schools, it is impossible to effectively support Hungarians in preserving their native language without state contribution. The Minister of Education established the Balassi Bálint Institute, which is able to perform all the duties related to the preservation, development, presentation, promotion and research of the Hungarian language and culture. I do not want to give all details of the activity of the Institute, you can look up their website.

I mention two successful programs I try to promote among Canadian Hungarians:

- 1) The Institute provides teacher training for volunteer teachers of Hungarian language both in Hungary and Canada: with the support of our Prime Minister's Office at the end of August we will have our third teacher training weekend seminar.
- 2) They also offer a ten-month Hungarian language, history, and culture studies course (magyarságismereti kurzus) in Budapest for young people of Hungarian origin. I managed to arrange that from this year on it is

possible to apply here in Canada through the Canada-Hungary Educational Foundation and the institute ensures a minimum of five places for Canadian applicants every year. This year the Foundation recruited very successfully: 10 applicants will be admitted. I would like to ask all of you here to promote this wonderful opportunity in your communities.

## II

### **Bilateral ties between Canada and Hungary**

The political climate between Canada and Hungary is a very decisive factor which can make an impact on the cooperation of Canadian Hungarians and the partnership of both countries. One of the main political priorities of the Hungarian government is the trans-atlantic orientation, in which Canada plays an outstanding role. During the last two decades we have maintained a politically unproblematic, cordial relationship, which is based on shared general values. The approach of both countries related to the main problems of the international scene is generally close or identical. For example, we have extensive cooperation in crisis areas as Afganistan or the Western Balkan. Canada effectively supported the Hungarian integration to NATO, and significantly contributed to improving our capacity for membership. Canada was the first state to ratify our accession treaty.

In general, our bilateral ties are on the right track, having a complex network of cooperation from defence to culture.

**On the political level** the last period has been full of outstanding events. There have been a series of top meetings. The state visit of the President of the Republic of Hungary to Canada, in April 2007, and the visit of the Governor General of Canada to Hungary in November 2008, were milestones in the development of our cooperation. Also I must underline the importance of the visit of the President of the Hungarian



National Assembly to Canada, twice: in the fall of 2007, then the summer of 2008.

On the federal ministerial level there have been essential negotiations between the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Ministers of Defence. Our minister of culture and education met the federal Minister of Canadian Heritage and Status of Women. The Canadian Minister of Immigration and Citizenship visited Hungary last summer.

We are working on enlarging the cooperation on the provincial level as well. In 2007-2008 two agreements on education between Hungary and the Alberta provincial government were signed.

I must emphasise the positive impact of the commemorative events of the 50th anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution of 1956. The series of events all over Canada, the active participation of official circles and of local communities and cultural institutions strengthened the wide range of Canadian sympathy towards the Hungarian Revolution and Hungary. The conference, organised jointly by the University of Ottawa and the Hungarian Studies Association and the last volume of the Hungarian Studies Review also contributed to this success.

The only critical issue of our partnership was eliminated in February 2008, when the Canadian government lifted the visa obligation for Hungarian citizens. Beyond the efforts of Hungarian diplomacy, we must underline the firm action of the European Union in demanding equal treatment for all EU members. Since March 1, 2008 we have had positive experience, there is no sign of abusing the system, no high wave of asylum-seekers. The visa liberalisation is very positively received in Hungary and among Canadian Hungarians.

Unfortunately, due to shortage of funding we can bring only very few cultural events to Canada. Nevertheless, I can mention that since I began my tenure, in friendly cooperation with the Hungarian

communities, in several cities we marked the anniversary of Zoltán Kodály with a series of very successful piano concerts by Tamás Érdi. In 2008 a most informative and beautiful exhibition introduced the history of the Holy Crown. Also in 2008 the Hungarian Ministry of Education and Culture sponsored a tour of a drama by Zsolt Pozsgay to celebrate the 160th anniversary of the revolution and war of independence of 1848-49. This year is the debut of the world famous Halas lace in Canada. These programs also attract many Canadians. Culture is not a one way street: upon the initiative of the Hungarian Minister of Education and Culture, this summer and fall the Canadian Hungarian Artists' Collective will have a comprehensive exhibition in Szentendre and Keszthely.

During the last three years **economic cooperation** has made modest progress. The flow of investment from Canada to Hungary is a real success story. During the first decade Canadian businessmen invested in Hungary more than USD 2 billion. Year by year our bilateral trade has grown but it is still at a very low level: Hungary ranks 58th for Canadian exporters, for Hungary Canada ranks 53rd trade partner.

Despite the present financial crisis our bilateral trade is stable and its volume is rising. New products appeared on the market: cellphones, computer technology, water treatment equipment. A new field of cooperation is biotechnology. There are some flagships: Bombardier, Linamar, WesCast, Zenon GE, Trigranit, Atronix, Novopharm (TEVA) Falcon Oil and Gas, General Woods. Some of these are run or owned by Hungarians .

According to our assessment, the furthering in bilateral relations mainly depends on the activity of the Hungarian party. For that, we find it important to observe the following aspects:

- We must combine our national possibilities with the opportunities provided by the EU framework – we should take an active part in the implementation of the contents of EU-Canada Partnership Program.
- The stimulation of Canadian investments is a key to the future of bilateral relations. The Implementation of the II National Development Plan (II. Nemzeti Fejlesztési Terv), which is a comprehensive plan for the reasonable and effective spending of EU resources, during the financial term of 2007-2013, creates great opportunities. Approximately USD 50 billion will have to be spent in 6 years and we are looking forward to Canadian investors for cofinancing.
- In the field of energy policy it is advisable to examine new possibilities of cooperation for example: renewable energy resources, new technologies.
- The intensive development of provincial relations is vital in the fields of provincial jurisdiction.
- We must work on raising the interest of future Canadian businessmen: we took part in a very successful Central and Eastern European Business Program: 17 MBA students from Dalhousie University went to Poland and Hungary to study the opportunities and challenges of doing business in Hungary.

The Hungarians of Canada constitute a major element in the economic cooperation, investment, scientific, cultural and human relations between our countries. Behind all economic or cultural enterprise second and third generation Hungarian immigrants can be found. It is in the interest of Hungary to maintain the commitment of Canadian Hungarians to their old country, to raise the interest of the young generation in their roots and heritage, the current issues and possibilities of their heritage country. Earlier I already mentioned some

measures to achieve this goal. The latest statistics also underline the reality of these efforts.

### III

#### **The Hungarians in Canada**

Historically there have been four great waves of immigration. Now I would like to refer to the fourth, whose members and descendants constitute the core of current Hungarian communities. The 1956 refugees were mostly young adults, with good education and professional careers, they settled in urban centres, giving new impetus to Hungarian culture in Canada. By 1958 fewer than 1000 refugees relied on government aid, their capacities for self-adaptation were so good. In the decades following the 1956 uprising thousands of Hungarians immigrated to Canada to join family members, or marry. Many new immigrants have come from the territory of Romania, Czechoslovakia and during the Yugoslavian war from North Serbia, Vojvodina.

To develop a strategy for the future of the Canadian diaspora it is essential to study the ethnocultural portrait of the Canadian society published by Statistics Canada. In the census of 2001, 267,255 Canadians declared some kind of Hungarian descent, among them 91,795 declared exclusively Hungarian (national) identity. According to the figures of the 2001 census, the Canadian Hungarian community was Canada's 21st largest ethnic group.

According to the latest, 2006 census, the number of respondents who reported their single or multiple Hungarian ethnic origins on the national level (total) was 315, 510, which constitutes a **48,255 growth since 2001**. The most significant growth was recorded in Ontario (by 23,180 respondents), Alberta, (by 7,130 respondents), British Columbia (by 6,361 respondents,) Quebec (by 6,100 respondents) and Saskatchewan (by 3, 055 respondents). Nevertheless, the number of respondents with single Hungarian ethnic origin unfortunately declined from 91,795 in

2001 to 88,685 in 2006 (by 3,110 respondents). Interestingly, with the rise of overall population of Canada to 31 million 241 thousand – Hungarian immigrants constitute 0,1% of total population, becoming 24th largest ethnic group.

The territorial concentration of the Canadian Hungarians:

Ontario, South Ontario, Toronto and its vicinity 130 000

British Columbia 43 000

Alberta 41 000

Quebec 16 000

(Source: Ethnocultural Portrait of Canada Highlight Tables, 2006 Census)

What conclusion may we draw from the above-mentioned numbers? The awareness of the Hungarian origin among Hungarians in Canada is on the rise. It is more and more important for the second, third generation to discover their roots and establish ties with the former homeland of their ancestors. This has been my personal experience too, wherever in Canada I have met Hungarian communities, especially young people.

Another interesting development: since our accession to the EU our consular sections have experienced a growing interest in renewing Hungarian citizenship and Hungarian passports.

Whenever I meet Canadian federal or provincial politicians, I inform them about the high number and influence of Canadian Hungarians and suggest that these favourable tendencies will contribute much to the further strengthening of the people to people relations between Hungary and Canada, thus widening the broader cooperation of our countries.

The social and political stratification of Hungarians in Canada is very complex. The cultural, political, economic activities have a very multifaceted character. My overall experience is that the political, cultural and economic influence of Canadian-Hungarians is stronger than their

proportionality in the whole population and the Hungarians greatly contribute to the development of the new homeland and make a difference.

On the political scene until 2008 the most influential group was found in the federal Parliament: The Canadian-Hungarian Friendship group – led by Tom Wappel, veteran MP, had 23 members, not all of them Hungarians. They played a very important role in lobbying for our visa-free status. Unfortunately Tom Wappel retired and Andrew Telegdi was not reelected. Still, in spring 2009 under the leadership of Mauril Belanger, whose wife is Hungarian, the Hungarian-Canadian friendship group was reestablished. This group gives me a good chance to brief them on Hungarian issues that otherwise they could not get information about. At the moment there are some pressing matters for them to lobby for:

- signing the youth mobility program, which would be very useful for Canadians, Canadian Hungarians and Hungarians as well to gain experience, learn a different business culture and a language in both countries.
- finalizing FIPA – Financial Investment Protection Agreement between Hungary and Canada.

The Hungarian National Assembly also has a Canadian-Hungarian friendship group of 14 members.

We have a comprehensive and efficient network of honorary consuls in Montreal, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver: very highly reputed and influential Canadian Hungarians, who besides protecting and representing the interest of Hungarian citizens and legal entities in Canada, further the development of relations between our countries. They also provide a lot of information on commercial, scientific, cultural areas and work for the development of ties between Hungary and the provinces. The Honorary consuls have an outstanding

role in the communication between the Hungarian communities and the embassy.

There have always been outstanding personalities in the public administration. eg Iván Fellegi, who was Chief Statistician of Canada for 22 years.

In the economy Canadian Hungarians are engines in developing bilateral economic ties.

There is an effective Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Hungary, which promotes profitable and productive relations between Canada and Hungary, and provides value-added services and activities to members combining business interaction, government relations, social networking and community relations. Before I came to Canada two and a half years ago, I met the Board of Directors. The majority of directors were Canadian Hungarians.

Our embassy has excellent relationship with the Hungarian Canadian Chamber of Commerce, based in Montreal, Quebec, whose mission is to help companies develop commercial relationships between Canada and Hungary especially small and medium size enterprises.

A new generation of young Canadian Hungarian entrepreneurs has recently established a Hungarian-Canadian Business Association, based in Toronto.

Nearly all Canadian universities have Hungarian professors, among them 14, whose lifework is acknowledged by their membership in the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, for example Nobel Prize winner professor John Polányi at the University of Toronto, or again Iván Fellegi.

We have excellent cooperation with the Hungarian Research Institute of the University of Toronto, not only helping to bring over renowned lecturers from Hungary but I must mention the very successful Halas lace exhibition in Toronto University's Robarts Library, which we

organised together. Hungary sends a guest professor to the University of Toronto to teach the language and conduct courses in Hungarian studies. Canada also provides possibilities for young Hungarian scientists: the Wirth Institute of Central European and Austrian Studies in Edmonton, Alberta receives a PhD student every year – this spring they had 44 applicants!!

Very few people know about it, but the University of Quebec in Chicoutimi for more than twenty years has been the centre of a very vigorous exchange program with Budapest and Miskolc Technological Universities. From the beginning of the 1990's, 70 researchers from both countries participated in this exchange program under the leadership and tireless work of Professor László Kiss.

Hungary highly appreciates the achievements of outstanding Canadian Hungarians in the field of journalism, literature, music, arts, entertainment and audiovisual industry, like George Jonas, Anna Porter, Miklós Takács, Robert Lantos, László Barna– there is no time to list everybody - who have excellent ties with creative, performing and visual artists in Hungary, their lifework is well-known in Hungary and they cooperate with colleagues from Hungary thus enriching universal Hungarian culture.

Music education makes a tight link between our countries in another channel: I was surprised to learn that there are Kodály Societies in different provinces of Canada.

The institutional background of cultivating Hungarian values and heritage was developed by the efforts of Canadian Hungarians.

As I see it, in the last 130 years Canadian Hungarians have found a new homeland, have made careers and a safe living, have won respect for our Hungarian values from nations and ethnic peoples who knew nothing about Hungarians. Nevertheless, the roots and passing the Hungarian



heritage on to the next generation is vital. All my respect to the thousands of volunteers who have worked for the high number of Hungarian community centres, churches, schools, scout organisations, cultural associations, choirs and folk dancegroups. When I came here, I wrote a letter of introduction to more than 250 different Hungarian organisations all over Canada. Though there is no umbrella organisation and not all provinces have formal associations, wherever I go, I always find enthusiastic Hungarians who sacrifice their free time to come together with fellow Hungarians, to mark our national holidays, to speak Hungarian. Every year the Republic of Hungary recognises some outstanding personalities' dedicated work with decorations.

Organisations, like the Helicon Society, the Rákóczi Foundation, the Canada-Hungary Educational Foundation, the Hungarian Committee in Montreal and many a Hungarian Cultural Association in several provinces support Hungarian education.

Hungarian newspapers – from the beginning of the last century 200 different newspapers have been published. Some of them, following the new era, have online editions too. It is amazing, how many Hungarian community websites are operated by the younger generation.

The Hungarian televisions and radios in major cities - most of the time without or with very little public funds – fulfill a very important mission.

The Hungarian churches: Catholic, Reformed and also the Jewish communities have been the first to help a newcomer and greatly contributed to preserving the national identity.

The Hungarian schools for many decades have been the strongholds of teaching the language, history, culture to the new generations. The teachers are also volunteers – and many times not

professionals: but do a great job. In 2007 the President of the Hungarian National Assembly presented a lot of books to different schools.

In Ontario, Hungarian community centres and schools offer Hungarian Language Courses that are recognized as a credit towards High School Diplomas.

Since 2001 under the auspices of the Helicon Society it is possible to take accredited Hungarian language proficiency examinations. The Hungarian Embassy is helping to introduce this examination in other provinces as well: this year there will be the first exam in British Columbia.

There is a network of rich Hungarian public and university libraries. On Monday you can visit the Preservation Centre of the National Library and Archives, which also has a rich Hungarian-Canadian Heritage collection. These institutions have excellent ties and cooperation with their Hungarian counterparts.

#### IV

#### **Conclusions**

- Hungarian foreign policy must embrace the Hungarians beyond the borders, keeping in mind the unity of Hungarians all over the world
- Canadian-Hungarians and the members of the diaspora obviously belong to the core of the Hungarian nation. Their cultural and scientific achievements also mean great contribution to the general values of Hungarian culture and science.
- Hungarian communities here in Canada constitute the decisive pillars of bilateral political and economic relations. The community's strong position and the personal reputation of Canadian Hungarians in Canadian society can have a real influence

on shaping this cooperation. It should have a very important mediator and bridge function in the future too.

- It is in the interest of all Hungarian governments to support the existence of these communities, for the sake of future, to help the young generations to find their national background, traditions and heritage. In the light of facts here in Canada we can be optimistic.
- Many communities are not aware of the existing possibilities. Through a better communication between the Hungarian state and Hungarian communities the cooperation would be more efficient. In this process we must rely on the honorary consuls network and the existing printed, audiovisual and online media.
- We do not count with a high level of immigration in the near future from Hungary and the neighbouring countries. We must facilitate the new Canadian-Hungarian younger generations to learn the language and find contacts with Hungary.
- Young Canadian Hungarians and Canadians could come to study to Hungary. The major universities have faculties where the language of instruction is English: including medicine, dentistry and pharmacology. Canada and Hungary could make better use of the possibilities of Erasmus Mundus of the EU, which is a cooperation and mobility programme in the field of higher education.
- It is in the interest of Canadian Hungarians that Canada have better cooperation with the EU. The latest development is very positive. On May 6, 2009, the EU-Canada summit in Prague decided to launch the elaboration of the agreement on comprehensive economic cooperation – larger than a traditional free trade agreement. This agreement, when signed, will open a completely new chapter.

