

Pierre Akkelian
1002 Sherbrooke Ouest, Suite 2525, H3A 3L6
Montréal, Québec
514-287-1951 – x102
pierre@canadiangem.com | pierre@ajafoundation.com

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Business

- 1974 Pierre Akkelian with his father Karnig and brother Papken founded PAP jewellery & gift store on St-Hubert Street in Montreal.
- 1976 The retail store expands and a manufacturing and wholesale division is created.
- 1978 Gemme Canadienne/Canadian Gem is launched located in downtown Montreal. The company specializes in the wholesale of loose diamonds and the manufacturing of diamond rings and jewellery. Pierre becomes the managing director of Canadian Gem.
- 1979 Canadian Gem begins to import pearls and specialize in the manufacturing and wholesale of pearl jewellery. In the following three decades it captures 25-33% of the Canadian pearl market share.
- 1984 The jewellery manufacturing division of Canadian Gem separates from the retail business.
- 1989 Gemperle Inc. division is created, a jewellery distributor and promoter of brand name products.
- 1989 Canadian Gem launches Tresoro, a company with International sales that specializes in exclusive handmade wedding bands. In mid nineties one percent of Japanese are wed using Tresoro bands.
- 2003 Canadian Gem wins two 1st and second place prestigious North American design completion awards.
- 2004 Canadian Gem wins 1st prize Tahitian Pearl Trophy International competition.
- 2009 Canadian Gem establishes GemEst Co. a joint venture with Estet Jewellery House, the leading jewellery manufacturing and distribution company in Russia. GemEst is poised to become the leading Pearl jewellery distributor in Russia and C.I.S. countries. Pierre Akkelian is the Chairman of GemEst.
- 2011 In 2011, the launch of Nishi Pearls Hong Kong Co. in cooperation with leading pearl producers and cultivators. Nishi Pearls brand takes a fresh modern approach to timeless classics.
- Present Pierre Akkelian has taken a once small family owned business and turned it into a nationally acclaimed company that serves a global market. The company is renowned in the Canadian market as Canada's largest pearl distributors and is considered "Canada's Most Trusted Pearl Specialists".

Jewellery Industry Associations

- 1978 Canadian Gem becomes member of Corporation Des Bijoutiers du Quebec.
- 1984 Canadian Gem becomes member of Canadian Jewellers Association.
- 1987 Canadian Gem becomes a founding member of Jewellers Vigilance Canada.
- 1988 Pierre Akkelian is elected as a board member of the Canadian jewellers Association.
- 1990 – 1992 Pierre Akkelian serves as a member of the trade advisory committee to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Canada during NAFTA implementation, also serves on the joint industry and Industry Canada committee that drafted the pearl section within the “Guidelines with Respect to the Sale and Marketing of Diamonds, Coloured Gemstones and Pearls”.
- 1991 Pierre Akkelian acts as Chairman at CJA’s National Convention in Quebec City.
- 1991 – 1993 CJA appoints Pierre Akkelian as Chairman of Taskforce to revamp bylaws and set future guidelines for the Association.
- 1992 – 1995 Akkelian becomes the Board Representative for the World Pearl Organization.
- 1993 – 1996 Akkelian becomes CJA Chairman of the Government Relations Committee where he represents CJA in a multitude of meetings in Ottawa. In this position Pierre begins lobbying efforts to abolish the Federal Luxury Tax.
- 1996 – 1997 Pierre Akkelian becomes President of CJA. He represents the Canadian jewellery industry at various national and international gatherings. He serves on various design competition and industry advisory committees.
- 1997 Akkelian serves as a board member of Jeweller’s Vigilance Canada.
- 1996 – 1997 Akkelian acts as Canada’s representative to CIBJO as an observer.
- 1997 During Pierre’s CJA presidency and his lobbying efforts, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance recommends the abolition of the excise tax.
- 1998 Pierre Akkelian makes an influential speech as a key presenter at The Conference on Creating a Diamond Jewellery Industry for the Northwest Territories in Yellowknife.
- 1998 – 1999 Akkelian acts as Canada’s representative to CIBJO as a member.
- 2006 Parliament abolishes Federal Luxury Tax. For the first time in Canadian history a tax is removed by a private members bill introduced by John Duncan P.C. Pierre Akkelian is credited for this success and for his leadership role to mobilize parliamentary and industry support.
- 2007 Pierre Akkelian is appointed to CIBJO Pearl Commission and is instrumental in getting CJA to be a member of CIBJO.
- 2008 Pierre is recognised by Corporation Des Bijoutiers Du Quebec for his leadership role to eliminate the Jewellery Excise tax.

2011 Pierre is a key presenter at World Bank sponsored Diamond industry conference in Gaborone Botswana

Armenian Jewellery Associations

1997 Pierre Akkelian initiated and is the Founder of the Armenian Jewellers Association, an association that creates links between Armenian Jewellers worldwide.

1997 – 2011 Akkelian served on AJA Board in various capacities.

2011 - Pierre Akkelian is a Co-founder of the AJA Foundation, a foundation that in collaboration with AJA has set out to research and document the Armenian and world jewellery heritage and establish educational and scholarship programs for young emerging designers, crafters and gemologists. He is the interim chairman.

Community Achievements

1988 Canadian Armenian Business Council presented Akkelian the “Member of the year” award.

1989-1991 Akkelian served as a member of the board of CABC. Chaired the investment committee and CABC Youth Committee.

2004 – 2011 Akkelian is a founding member of the Congress of Canadian Armenians (CCA) and served as Vice-Chairman from 2004-2011. In 2007 Akkelian was appointed Chairman of the CCA National Committee, the lobbying arm of CCA.

Education and Personal Achievements

1968 – 1970 AGBU Hovagimian-Manugian High School, Beirut

1970 – 1971 Malcolm Campbell High school, Montreal

1971 – 1974 Vanier College & Sir George Williams University (Concordia), Montreal

1972 – 1973 Founder and President of Vanier College Chess Club

1972 – 1973 Founder and President Vanier College Ping Pong Club

1973 1st Prize winner, Canadian Chess Federation tournament. Section B