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EXTERIORES

CONSUL ...TING

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75TH ANNIVERSARY OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN MEXICO AND CANADA

On January 29, 1944, Mexico and Canada established diplomatic relations. Over 75 years, the ties of friendship and cooperation between the two nations, societies and governments have grown progressively stronger.

On this anniversary, the two countries have reaffirmed a political commitment to continue strengthening their relations bilaterally and in the context of the North American region, leveraging their shared values and principles and the fact that they have become economic partners and genuine strategic allies.



75 AÑOS TEJIENDO
LAZOS PARA EL FUTURO

**MÉXICO
CANADÁ**

Since his inauguration last December, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador has accorded special importance to the strengthening of relations with Canada.

The social, cultural and human ties between the two countries have continued to grow. The number of Canadians visiting our country surpassed 2 million in 2018, while Canada has become home to the biggest Mexican migrant community in the world after the United States.



45TH ANIVERSARY OF THE SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL WORKERS PROGRAM

The Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program (SAWP) between Canada and Mexico was established with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on June 17, 1974.

Now, 45 years after its creation, the SAWP has become a model for bi-national collaboration and an example of best practice in the area of labour mobility. The program was inspired by related agreements and recommendations by the International Labour Organization (ILO).



The SAWP has allowed 380,000 Mexicans to work on Canadian farms over the past 45 years. In 2018, 25,300 workers took part in the program, 11,740 of them working in Ontario and Manitoba.

The Consulate General in Toronto welcomes the new agricultural workers for the 2019 season and wishes them a productive stay on Canadian soil.

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

131ST ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TORONTO REGION BOARD OF TRADE

The Consulate General was invited to attend the 131st Annual Meeting of the Toronto Region Board of Trade (TRBT), that took place on February 7 at the Metro Toronto Convention Center.

During the event held under the slogan "Advancing the Global Region", Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and the President and CEO of the TRBT, Jan de Silva, held a dialogue to highlight Toronto's capabilities as a center of global excellence in financial, technological and innovation matters.

Toronto Mayor John Tory welcomed the participants and the President of the "Collision" Conference Paddy Cosgrave announced the 5th edition of the conference in May 2019.



The Federal Minister of Small Businesses Mary NG, members of the federal and provincial parliament, mayors of the cities surrounding Toronto's metropolitan area, as well as businessmen and women, financiers, lawyers, bankers and members of the consular corp accredited in Toronto also attended the meeting.

The mission of the Toronto Region Board of Trade is to promote the competitiveness of this North American region and foster the exchange of goods and services among its members. The Consulate General works with the TRBT with a view to increasing commercial exchanges between Mexico and Toronto.



ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE CITY VAUGHAN

On February 13, the Consul General of Mexico attended the annual meeting of the Chamber of Commerce of the city of Vaughan in the district of York, part of the metropolitan area of Toronto, headed by the mayor of the city, Maurizio Bevilacqua.

Mayor Bevilacqua reflected on the recent economic successes of the city, recounting a series of transformative city-building initiatives and talking about the importance of goal-oriented leadership. He also highlighted the prosperity achieved by the inhabitants of Vaughan, that boasts one of the highest rates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita in Canada and the highest living standards in the country.



In the framework of the meeting of the Chamber of Commerce of Vaughan, the Consul General granted an interview to the Univision network about the importance of Vaughan to do business with Mexico.

He highlighted the commercial aspects that make the city attractive due to its logistics infrastructure, storage capacity and transport interconnectivity. He also referred to the investments made by local companies dedicated to the construction of auto parts in our country and the economic capacity of the inhabitants of the city to take advantage of high-level tourism opportunities in Mexico.



CONSULATE PARTICIPATES IN THE MEXICO BUSINESS CLUB

The Mexico Business Club in Toronto invited the Consul General to deliver a talk on February 7 on the benefits of the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA) and the process of ratification of the agreement in their respective legislative branches.

The Consul General explained to a large audience of club members that Mexico and Canada's geographical proximity has made it possible to establish strategic dialogue between our two countries, vesting our bilateral relationship with an exceptional quality.

He also highlighted the fact that the recent signing of the CUSMA upheld the spirit of free trade and opened up new opportunities for the exchange of goods, services and direct foreign investment. In addition, the Consul General referred to the economic opportunities and the inclusion in the agreement of aspects related to social inclusion, such as labour relations, small businesses and the fight against corruption.

He concluded his talk by pointing out that the two countries needed to pursue more extensive cooperation that includes aspects related to development and especially to public security, science and technology, the promotion of human rights, the protection of indigenous peoples, climate change and diversity, and cultural production and dissemination.



CONSULATE TAKES PART IN THE TALK "LEADING CHANGE IN GLOBAL SOCCER"



On January 30, the Consul General took part in a talk titled "Leading Change in Global Soccer".

At this well-attended event, senior directors from the International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) talked to the Canadian public about the organization of the headquarters for the 2026 World Cup, which is to be hosted jointly by Mexico, Canada and the United States.



STUDENTS FROM UNIVERSITY OF CHAPINGO VISIT TORONTO



On February 15, the Consul General participated in an academic visit by a group of 33 students from the Mexican university Universidad Autónoma de Chapingo, mostly in programs in business management, international trade and agricultural economics.

The purpose of the visit was to promote the internationalization of the university and to establish new contacts with universities and colleges in Ontario. The students received information from local educational institutions about opportunities to continue their professional studies in Canada, taking advantage of their installed capacity in the fields of technological innovation and entrepreneurship.

The consulate officials responsible for cultural and academic affairs and protection also offered the students a general explanation of the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program (SAWP) in Ontario, as well as the operation of labour mobility programs between Mexico and Canada and student mobility agreements in place in Ontario and the opportunities these programs and agreements offer young Mexicans.

CULTURAL AFFAIRS

GUSTAVO ARTIGAS EXHIBITION "VOLATILE COLOUR"

On January 17, Mexican artist Gustavo Artigas opened his first solo exhibition in the city of Toronto entitled "Volatile Colour" at the art gallery "Sur Gallery".

"Volatile Colour" explores colour as a means to play with our senses-our sense of truth, attempting to change our realities during dark moments in history-offering awareness to our surroundings and of others. Artigas' work embodies a much more comprehensive account to the element of colour and to the creation of art objects. He places us in a space of distinct collective reflection on the precariousness of our times and makes us doubt affirmations of "truth"

Gustavo Artigas born in Mexico is currently based in Toronto. Artigas is a member of the National System of Art Creators, FONCA-CONACULTA. His artistic practice spans almost 25 years participating in various biennials such as Biennial of the Americas (2013); Ural Industrial Biennial of Contemporary Art(2004). Artigas' work is part of the Museo Jumex (Mexico City), the Addison collection in Denver, the Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art in Colorado and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago.



MEETING WITH SALVADOR ALANIS



On February 13, the Consulate General met with the president and co-founder of the Institute for Creative Exchange (ICE), Salvador Alanis, with the objective of promoting high-level immersion workshops, training and education programs, and artist residencies to be organized in 2019.

Notable among the activities planned is a workshop to be offered by the Mexican photographer Gerardo Montiel on March 4, which will facilitate the exchange of ideas with contemporary artists and members of the Canadian and international business community.

ICE is an organization of Mexicans dedicated to studying and promoting creative and artistic development in Toronto. The Institute has not only established a bridge between cultural institutions, artistic professionals and individuals interested in developing their understanding of creative processes, but has also created a gateway for Mexican creators.

TIFF AND GUILLERMO DEL TORO PRESENTS
"SUI GENERIS" HISTORY OF MEXICAN CINEMA

The TIFF has announced a project to celebrate Mexico's rich history curated by the Mexican director Guillermo del Toro, and the director Diana Sánchez, TIFF programmer, which will run from February 28 to April 6, 2019 in Toronto.

For more information:

<https://www.tiff.net/calendar.html?series=mexico&list>

VALERIA LUISELLI PRESENTS HER BOOK
"LOST CHILDREN ARCHIVE"

Valeria Luiselli has been invited by the Public Library of Toronto to talk about her new book "Lost Children Archive".

Luiselli is one of the most outstanding innovative young writers of her generation in Mexico who has meant as much for her work of fiction as non-fiction.

On this occasion Luiselli will talk about a story of a family in movement exploring the nature of justice and equality in our days.



Monday April 29, 2019.
7:00 a 8:00 pm
Toronto Reference Library and Bluma Appel Salon



INTERVIEW WITH MEXICANS

ALBERTO CALVA, MEXICAN ENTREPRENEUR

**Who is Alberto Calva?**

I'm a native of Mexico City, where I also grew up. After finishing high school, I moved to the city of Monterrey to study industrial engineering at the university Tec de Monterrey. On finishing my degree, I returned to Mexico City and began my professional career in the field of consulting with what is now PwC (formerly Price Waterhouse). My job was to develop financial models in order to assess investment alternatives, and to provide clients with decision-making support.

Later, I returned to Tec de Monterrey to complete a Master's in Economics and finally an MBA at the same university. Ever since I was a child I've been interested in business, so after a few years I left PwC to join a furniture factory that was looking to break into the export market. My contribution there, in addition to financial management, was to develop cost models that enabled us to make the right decisions to be successful on the US market. Another partner was responsible for sales and another for production. After a few years there, I sold my share and went back to consulting. I established the company Acus Consultores in Mexico, which was the precursor to what is now Acus Consulting Ltd. in Canada.

What is Acus Consulting?

Acus Consulting is a company that I incorporated in the province of Ontario in Canada. Its fields of specialization are corporate finance, economics and strategy. It is through this company that I work as a corporate consultant. Basically, I work in two areas. On the one hand, consulting projects like analyzing and assessing complex investment and infrastructure projects, as well as profitability analysis. On the other, I deliver various executive training courses each year on topics related to finance and economics. I've had the opportunity to deliver courses in 8 different countries, in both English and Spanish.

Why did you decide to come to Toronto?

It all began in 2006, when I decided to realize a dream I'd had for some time: to expand my professional services outside of Mexico. My first idea was to work on projects abroad, but while living in Mexico.

Later on, my wife and I decided to explore the possibility of living abroad and travelling back to Mexico to work on projects there when necessary. So we took on the task of looking for the right country, a country that could offer us the kind of quality lifestyle we wanted to give our two daughters, and where they spoke Spanish or English, the two languages I was fluent in and could work in. So we came to the conclusion that Canada would offer us all this, and Toronto was the financial and business centre of the country. That's why we ended up in this wonderful city.

What has your experience been like as an immigrant to Canada?

Being an immigrant can generally be really hard. There are people who leave their homelands because of war or persecution. Some leave with nothing more than a suitcase. Some arrive in another country without being able to speak the language. For some it may even be the first time they've ever left their homelands. For us, none of this was the case, so coming to Toronto seemed like it would be simple. And in general it was, although there are a few points that are worth stressing. The first difficulty was learning the unwritten rules. This is something that will happen anywhere you go, and it takes you a few years to learn them. But the most complicated thing for me has been developing the kind of professional relationships I had, and still have, in Mexico. When you arrive you don't know anybody, and nobody knows you; your professional credentials and the universities you went to aren't recognized, and so you're literally a "Mr. Nobody". As you start demonstrating that you do in fact know things and you do think, you start finding your way.

How do you think you have contributed to Canada professionally?

I think that my biggest contribution has been a different approach to what everybody knows in the world of finance and business. Coming from a country where I had to live through several economic crises enabled me to see things that the locals here don't see. We're more assertive than the typical Canadian, but this can work against you if you don't manage it properly. However, as a country that welcomes a lot of immigrants, Canada should be getting more out of the professional and intellectual advantages arriving here from all over the world.

Is there a place for Mexican entrepreneurs in Canada?

There is a place for entrepreneurs everywhere, and they are needed more and more. Entrepreneurs ultimately create their own work opportunities and develop opportunities for others. Entrepreneurs aren't afraid of the challenges that come their way, and they're used to falling down and getting back up again. Again, the rules are different. If you say you're going to deliver something, it is expected that it will be exactly on the date agreed; if you say you can do something it is because you're really an expert in it; everything is planned well in advance, and if you commit to something you have to see it through.

CONSULAR SERVICES

ELECTRONIC TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION (ETA) FOR MEXICAN TRAVELERS



The **Registration System for Mexicans Abroad (SIRME)**, for its initials in Spanish) has the purpose of facilitating communication between the Mexican government and its citizens living abroad. Through this system, registered Mexicans can receive timely information to avoid facing adverse conditions while travelling, staying or residing outside Mexico.

<https://sirme.sre.gob.mx/>

Canadian nationals and permanent residents of Canada do not require a visa to enter Mexico, with the exception of Canadian citizens carrying diplomatic or official passports. For more information and requirements please visit:

<https://consulmex.sre.gob.mx/toronto/index.php/en/servicesforeigners/visas>



The Consulate General of Mexico in Toronto is open to the public by appointment.

For Mexican passports, birth certificates and powers of attorney, appointments must be requested through MEXITEL at: https://citas.sre.gob.mx/mexitel_web/

(1-877-639 4835)

For any other service, please request an appointment by calling:

(416) 368-2875 ext. 236

USEFUL LINKS

- Presidency of Mexico: presidencia.gob.mx
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs: sre.gob.mx
- Mexican Embassy in Canada: embamex.sre.gob.mx/canada/
- ProMexico: promexico.gob.mx
- Mexico Tourism Board: visitmexico.com
- Mexican National Council for Culture and the Arts: conaculta.gob.mx ecultura.gob.mx
- Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Mexico: canchammx.com
- Mexico-Canada: <http://mex.can.sre.gob.mx/>
- Visas and consular services: consulmex.com
- Mexican restaurants in Toronto & GTA: [click here](#)
- MEXITEL
1-877-639-4835
<https://mexitel.sre.gob.mx/citas>



CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

Call for Submissions for the Mexican Government's Excellence Grants for Foreigners 2019 The Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (SRE), through the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID), announces a call for submissions from foreigners interested in studying in Mexico at the levels of specialization, master's, PhD and post-doctoral research, as well as mobility programs for undergraduate and graduate students, to apply for the Mexican Government's Excellence Grants for Foreigners 2019. More info:

<http://www.gob.mx/amexcid/acciones-y-programas/becas-para-extranjeros-29785>

<http://www.gob.mx/amexcid/acciones-y-programas/becas-para-extranjeros-29785>

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