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11 King Street West,  
Suite 350 Toronto, ON  
M5H 4C7  
(416) 368-2875

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# CONSUL...TING

## CONSULATE GENERAL OF MEXICO MONTHLY NEWSLETTER JULY 2023

### ALICIA BÁRCENA IBARRA, SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

On July 3, Alicia Bárcena Ibarra became Mexico's new Secretary of Foreign Affairs, following her appointment by President Andrés Manuel López Obrador.

She previously served as Ambassador to Chile, where she was awarded the Order of Merit ("Grand Cross" grade) for her service. The new Foreign Secretary describes herself as a career diplomat with a solid background in the Secretariat of Finance and Public Credit, where she took part in the design and implementation of public policy related to economic and fiscal planning.



Bárcena holds a bachelor's degree in biology from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), a master's in public administration from Harvard University and honorary doctorates from UNAM, the University of Oslo, and the University of Havana.

She served as Deputy Chief and Chief of Cabinet to UN Secretary General Kofi Atta Annan, Undersecretary General for Management to Ban Ki-moon, and Undersecretary for Ecology in the Mexican Secretariat of Urban Development and Ecology (SEDUE).



In 2008, she was appointed Executive Secretary of the UN regional institution Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). While working for ECLAC she led efforts to implement economic and social policies and to promote sustainable development, gender equality, and the reduction of socioeconomic gaps in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Alicia Bárcena is recognized for her support of regional integration as a strategy to strengthen cooperation and promote inclusive economic growth.



She has always advocated for the implementation of public policies that address the challenges of climate change, inequality, and poverty.

Bárcena is committed to human rights, particularly economic, social, and cultural rights, and she has made a significant contribution to the improvement of the quality of life of people in Latin America and the Caribbean and promoting the construction and consolidation of a fairer and more sustainable future for the region.

## COOPERATION MATTERS

## ARRIVAL OF MEXICAN FOREST FIREFIGHTERS IN ONTARIO

On Monday, June 19, a contingent of 103 Mexican forest firefighters were flown from Guadalajara's Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla International Airport to Thunder Bay, Ontario, to support efforts to control and suppress wildfires in the northwest and northeast regions of Ontario.

The mission was coordinated by the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC) under the Operational Plan for the Exchange of Forest Fire Management Resources between Canadian and Mexican Participants.

The close bilateral relationship between Mexico and Canada in the area of wildfire suppression reflects the shared commitment of the two countries to combating climate change.



With these cooperative actions, the Mexican government is strengthening its ties of friendship and support with Canada, fulfilling the commitment made in this area by President Andrés Manuel López Obrador and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at the Tenth North American Leaders' Summit in January 2023.

The contingent of forest fire specialists included 100 firefighters and three technical experts from Mexico's National Forestry Commission, CONAFOR. The members of the contingent hailed from 22 different Mexican states, and all were qualified in wildfire control and suppression in accordance with international standards. They also had the experience, physical fitness, training, and equipment necessary to perform their duties on the ground.



The day before their departure, the firefighters met at CONAFOR's central office in Zapopan in the Mexican state of Jalisco, where they received the operation protocol established by the International Incidents Command System, along with useful information on the status of the wildfires in Canada.

Including the evolution of more than 400 active fires over 7.5 million hectares, in what is considered to be the worst forest fire season in Canadian history.

The CO<sub>2</sub> released into the atmosphere by wildfires exacerbates the global warming crisis and their effects have been palpable in several cities in Canada and the United States.



Mexican brigades were split up to work in the regions of Dryden and Sudbury. The actions they performed included installing water-pump systems, searching for and extinguishing hotspots, opening up firebreaks, and direct fire-fighting.

The provincial Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry reported that Ontario was receiving support from three firefighting aircraft from Minnesota and that these aircraft were working in coordination with Mexican firefighters to extinguish wildfires in the province.

In addition to the presence of Mexican firefighters in Ontario, another firefighting contingent was sent this month to the province of British Columbia.





## ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

## COLLISION INTERNATIONAL TECH INNOVATION CONFERENCE 2023

The ninth edition of the Collision International Technological Innovation, Development and Investment Conference began on June 26 at the Enercare Convention Centre in Toronto. Collision is the fastest-growing technological innovation conference in North America.

The 2023 edition brought together more than 230 partners, 865 investors, and 920 journalists, along with more than 1,490 startups and around 36,000 attendees from 118 countries.

The event was opened by Toronto's acting mayor, Jennifer McKelvie, together with the federal Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, François-Philippe Champagne.



Collision 2023 CEO Paddy Cosgrave spoke about the importance of exploring global regulatory approaches to AI governance, endorsing the call by hundreds of technology experts including engineers at Amazon, Google, Meta, and Microsoft. As well as the co-founder of Apple for a moratorium on training AI systems with larger data processing and storage capacities.

The main speaker was University of Toronto professor emeritus Geoffrey Hinton, a cognitive psychologist and computer scientist who is viewed locally as one of the godfathers of AI.



Mayor McKelvie highlighted Toronto's reputation as a global centre of technological innovation, while Minister Champagne talked about Canada's potential to become an ideal platform for research and development in the field of artificial intelligence (AI), as well as the federal government's initiative to include a section on AI development in its Digital Charter to address concerns about digital privacy.

Federal Immigration Minister Sean Fraser also announced immigration policy changes aimed at attracting and retaining human talent in the technology field, eliminating delays in existing programs, and increasing the number of visas available in order to capitalize on layoffs in the US technology industry.



Collision provided the opportunity for meetings held by the LATAM Startups network for emerging Latin American companies, the MaRS group of strategic and academic partners at the University of Toronto, and NetworkTO, an initiative bringing officials and government agents working in the area of technological innovation together with industry leaders, business owners, entrepreneurs, and professionals in the technology sector.

Mexican companies registered at Collision 2023 participated actively in the conference program. The Mexican company UPAX, a member of the Salinas Group, set up a pavilion to offer its technology relocation services to companies in Latin America.



## CONSULAR AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

## MEXICAN CULTURAL PARTICIPATION AT THE TORONTO LATIN FAIR 2023

The Consulate General was present at the Toronto Latin Fair on Sunday, June 25, organized by the Hispanic Canadian Heritage Council (HCHC) at Artscape Wychwood Barns Park in Toronto.

The Consulate General greeted visitors at the Mexican pavilion, where it offered trivia sessions on general culture, a display of the traditional Mexican game of *lotería*, and a piñata-making workshop.

The pavilion also offered an opportunity to provide information on consular services, protection, and guidance about the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program (SAWP) and labour mobility in general.



Mexico had a prominent place at the Latin Fair, with the presentation of traditional regional dances by the group Mexican Folklers, and the performance of Mexican music by Jorge Moya's band Mariachi Loco, promoting Mexican mariachi music, which was added to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2011.

A wide range of Mexican cooking was also offered, with the preparation of traditional dishes to promote the distinction of traditional Mexican cuisine's inclusion in the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2010.



## WINNIPEG, MANITOBA MOBILE CONSULATE 2023

On Saturday, June 9, the Consulate General's first mobile consulate of 2023 was in operation in Winnipeg, Manitoba, 2,050 kilometres from Toronto. Consular services were offered throughout the day, including passport issuance and registration or updating of personal information to obtain a Mexican voter's credential.

The mobile consulate also provided information on different programs organized by the Institute of Mexicans Abroad (IME), voting guides for Mexicans abroad by the National Electoral Institute (INE), and Guía Paisano booklets for Mexican immigrants by the National Migration Institute (INM).



The mobile consulate attended more than 90 people, issuing a total of 91 passports and updating voting credential information.

In coordination with Mex y Can Association of Manitoba Inc., the Mexican community was informed about the mobile consulate in local media and on social media.

Meetings were held with Mexicans working in the sciences, education and business, and information was collected on their needs with a view to enhancing cultural and educational events.





## INTERVIEW WITH MEXICANS: SOFIA ARMSTRONG, ALEXIS DÍAZ Á. AND LUIS GIBRÁN CAN C.



### 1) Who are Sofía Armstrong, Alexis Díaz Álvarez and Luis Gibran Can Cab?

Alexis and Sofía were born in the Mexican city of Durango.

Both are qualified engineers and passionate dancers. They have been performing folk dance for more than 16 years, which has given them the chance to meet a lot of people.

Luis Gibran was born in the state of Yucatán. He has been surrounded by traditional dance all his life, as in his hometown, folk traditions are still an everyday part of life.

Alexis and Sofia met Gibran a year and a half ago when they arrived in Canada.

Thanks to the fact that they share the same interest in folkloric dance, they coincided in events here in the city of Toronto and decided to join and integrate the folkloric group that they have been able to exhibit in different locations.

### 2) What are your projects in Toronto?

Since we arrived in Toronto, we have seen that this country has strong economic growth that allows it to generate job and educational opportunities for all migrants who decide to come to Canada.

It also offers a good quality of life with ideal conditions for young people. Fortunately, we have been allowed to showcase our Mexican culture, which is rich in every way and continues to fascinate and enchant everyone.

We love to combine our projects, apart from work and/or study, to make known here in Canada the traditions, magic, and colors of our Mexico.

### 3) What has been your experience as a migrant?

Challenging and reciprocal. The reality is that migrating is not easy, and many challenges have been submitted to us, such as language, climate, distances, diversity of cultures, flavors, etc.



The key is how you decide to see the experience. In our opinion, these challenges are worth it; everything becomes a learning experience.

You must be very persistent in everything you do, and you must have cleared your goals and be responsible acquiring the results that will give you a good lifestyle in Canada.

This is why we mentioned at the beginning, that this experience has been challenging and reciprocal.

### 4) How do you see Mexican culture (Folklore) prospects in Canada?

It seems to me that there is a good opportunity for growth and diffusion.

Every day more and more people are interested in being part of it.

On the other hand, Mexican Folklore is fully accepted, loved, and respected all over the world, its music, its costumes, and its charisma is always very well received.

In countries like this one, where in the same festival you have attendees from more than ten countries, Mexican Folklore is the most sought-after and the one that most attracts their attention.

It is very gratifying to feel the appreciation and reception they give it.

### 5) What are the obstacles that Mexicans face to grow in Canada?

Mexicans do not have the word obstacles in our vocabulary. They are always opportunities for learning and growth.

The society of this country is inclusive and recognizes the value we have as people who decide to come to it.

I believe in my community, so I have faith that when we arrive in Canada, strive to give the best of ourselves and not give up.

Because that's how we Mexicans are!



# ¿Quieres estudiar un bachillerato? #hechoenla

# UNAM

## CONVOCATORIA ABIERTA del 10 al 29 de agosto de 2023

Para registrarte, solo necesitas escanear y subir\*:

- > Certificado de secundaria original con promedio mínimo de 7
- > Acta de nacimiento original
- > Identificación oficial
- > Comprobante de domicilio en el extranjero
- > y CURP (si eres mexicano)

consulta convocatoria en:  
[www.bunam.unam.mx/extranjero](http://www.bunam.unam.mx/extranjero)

**Al completar exitosamente el  
programa, tendrás pase reglamentado  
a las licenciaturas en línea UNAM**

Si hablas español y vives fuera  
de México, ¡**estudia tu  
bachillerato en línea!**

\*Después te pediremos que envíes  
los documentos por mensajería

### ¡Contáctanos!

[infobunam@cuaieed.unam.mx](mailto:infobunam@cuaieed.unam.mx)

 @bachilleratobunam

 @bunam\_mx



## USEFUL LINKS

### Consular procedures

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

Registration System for Mexicans Abroad (SIRME) <http://sirme.sre.gob.mx/>

Schedule an appointment:

ONLINE: <http:// citas.sre.gob.mx/>

CALL: 1 424 3090009

Mexican Secretariat of Foreign Affairs  
[www.sre.gob.mx](http://www.sre.gob.mx)

### Mexican Embassy in Canada

<https://embamex.sre.gob.mx/canada/index.php/es/>

### Mexican population statistics abroad

[www.ime.gob.mx/estadisticas](http://www.ime.gob.mx/estadisticas)

Information [www.gob.mx/tramites](http://www.gob.mx/tramites)

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### Media Directory of the Consulate

#### General

Atanacio Campos Miramontes

Deputy Consul

Gilberto Bravo - PSPI at the press office

Email: [prensator@sre.gob.mx](mailto:prensator@sre.gob.mx)

Tel : (416) 368-2875 ext. 5238