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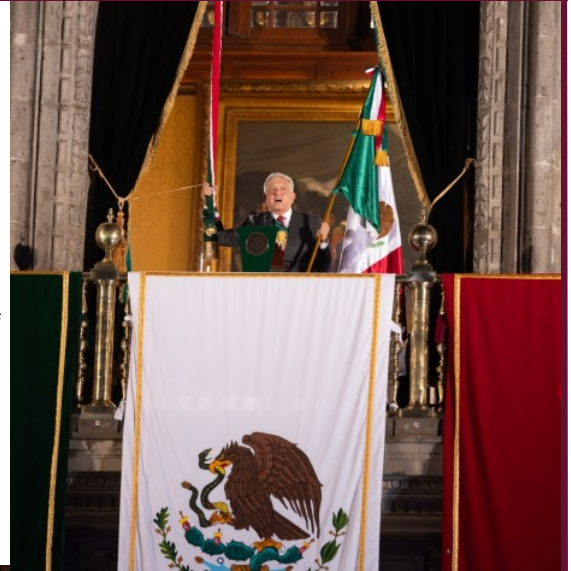
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THE PRESIDENT COMMEMORATES THE MEXICAN CRY OF INDEPENDENCE

Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador led the ceremony of the 213th anniversary of the Mexican *Grito de Independencia* (“Cry of Independence”) from the main balcony of the National Palace in Mexico City, where he included migrants and love in the traditional independence declaration.

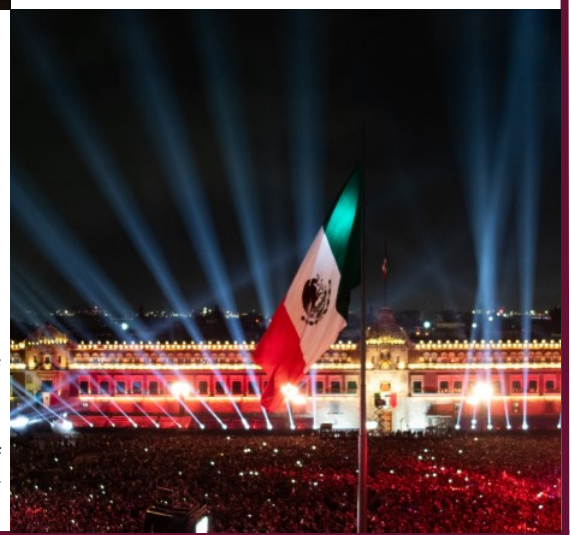
Accompanied by his wife, Dr. Beatriz Gutiérrez Müller, the president opened the civic ceremony in the presence of thousands of people gathered in Mexico City’s main square, the Zócalo. The *Grito de Independencia* constitutes a collective tribute to the heroes who founded the nation and gave us freedom, as well as an opportunity to reflect on the importance of the values they fought for and to share them with present and future generations.



The president honoured the men and women who fought for our nation, dedicating part of his Independence Declaration to unnamed heroes and highlighting the values of freedom, justice, equality, democracy, honesty, sovereignty, fraternity and love for one’s neighbours.

López Obrador waved the Mexican flag delivered to him by the cadets of the Heroic Military College, while the bells of the National Palace rang out over the square.

Later, the official delegation stood on the balcony and watched the fireworks that lit up the skies above the city centre.



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On the stages set up in the Plaza de la Constitución, attendees enjoyed more than four hours of music performed by the band Grupo Frontera and participants in the Mexican Secretariat of Culture’s Semilleros Creativos program.

Around 850 children and youth participating in the initiative showcased the cultural and artistic heritage of different regions of Mexico in a show featuring 25 performances.

Guests at the ceremony included Secretary of the Interior Luisa María Alcalde, Secretary of the Navy Rafael Ojeda, National Defence Secretary Luis Cresencio Sandoval, and other members of the president’s cabinet, along with Mexico City Head of Government Martí Batres.

2023 NATIONAL CELEBRATIONS

CRY OF INDEPENDENCE BY THE CONSUL GENERAL OF MEXICO IN TORONTO

On the occasion of the 213th anniversary of Mexican independence, the Consulate General led the traditional civic ceremony of the *Grito de Independencia* ("Cry of Independence") at Nathan Phillips Square in Toronto on Saturday, September 16.

The event included a public celebration organized by the committee responsible for Mexican independence celebrations in the city, now known as Mexican Day Toronto. The cultural and artistic program offered prior to the traditional *Grito de Independencia* ceremony included children's workshops, dance competitions, traditional dress contests and raffles of airline tickets to Mexico.

Stalls selling Mexican handicrafts, traditional objects and regional dishes were set up all over Toronto's emblematic Nathan Phillips Square, the largest public square in Canada.



The program featured performances by Los Grandes del Norte, Mariachi México Amigo, and a spirited presentation by the traditional dance group Ballet Folklórico Puro México. Other performers included Viva México Mariachi, the Saúl Torres Band, and Ballet Folklórico León Mitoti.

The Consulate General set up a booth at the event to provide information to Mexicans who are new to Ontario, seasonal agricultural workers, students, and local Mexican communities in general.

With more than 8,000 people in attendance, the official ceremony began at 7 p.m. with the handing over of the Mexican flag to Consul General Porfirio Thierry Muñoz Ledo, followed by the traditional independence declaration and a rousing rendition of the Mexican national anthem by all Mexicans present at the event.

MEXICAN FLAG-RAISING CEREMONY AT TORONTO CITY HALL

The flag-raising ceremony at Toronto City Hall is a tradition for countries with a significant immigrant population living in the city that contributes to local economic growth and cultural enrichment.

On Saturday, September 16, the Mexican flag was raised at a ceremony held at Nathan Phillips Square, in front of Toronto City Hall. At the beginning of the ceremony, Consul General Porfirio Thierry Muñoz Ledo talked about the ideals that gave rise to the insurgence movement and the birth of an independent nation.

He also stressed that Mexicans proudly celebrate the heroes who founded our nation and gave us freedom, conscious of the fact that a nation that honours its historical memory both at home and abroad is also a nation capable of fully exercising its sovereignty.



2023 NATIONAL CELEBRATIONS

FLAG-RAISING CEREMONY AT THE ONTARIO LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



On Friday, September 15, the Mexican flag was raised at the Ontario Legislative Assembly.

At the flag-raising ceremony, federal MP Julie Dzerowicz (Liberal Party, LP, Davenport) offered a heartfelt message describing the contributions of Mexican communities to Ontario's diversity, while also thanking Mexico for sending firefighters to support efforts to tackle the forest fires in Canada this year.

First Deputy Chair of the Legislative Assembly Bhutla Karpoche (New Democratic Party, NDP, Parkdale-High Park) and Ontario Minister of Infrastructure Kinga Surma (Progressive Conservative Party, PC, Etobicoke-Centre) also offered kind messages of congratulations. In addition, Provincial MPP Sheref Sabawy (PC, Mississauga-Erin Mills) read a message from Premier Doug Ford.

The event also featured a performance by the mariachi band México Amigo, which played traditional music associated with Mexico's independence celebrations.

NIAGARA FALLS ILLUMINATED WITH THE COLOURS OF THE MEXICAN FLAG

On Saturday, September 9, in collaboration with the Mexican Embassy in Ottawa, the beginning of this year's Mexican independence celebrations in the province of Ontario was marked with the illumination of Niagara Falls with the colours of the Mexican flag.

The incomparable sight of the illumination of two of the three falls was accompanied at exactly 10 p.m. by a fireworks display that highlighted the majestic beauty of this natural wonder on the US border, in the presence of an estimated audience of more than 5,000 people.

The falls were illuminated as part of the celebrations of Mexican Independence Month in Ontario, along with a performance by the Ballet Folklórico Aztlán dance group and other presentations of Mexican art, dance and music.



CELEBRATIONS IN WINNIPEG, MANITOBA



The Mexican community in Winnipeg, Manitoba, through the Mex Y Can Association, organized a lively gala dinner on September 16 to celebrate the 213th anniversary of Mexican independence. The event also marked the twentieth anniversary of the Mex Y Can Association.

Those present enjoyed wonderful artistic performances that highlighted the richness of Mexico's cultural traditions. Among the guests were the former Honorary Consul of Mexico in Winnipeg, James Downey, and the Mex Y Can Board of Directors.

The evening constituted a moving testimony to the unity and festive spirit that defines the Mex Y Can community in Manitoba.

COMMUNITY AND CONSULAR AFFAIRS

SECOND LABOUR RIGHTS WEEK



The second edition of Labour Rights Week in Toronto took place on September 5-10, 2023, with both virtual and in-person activities.

Participating in this event were representatives from the Ontario Ministries of Labour and Agriculture, the Canadian Association of Latino Police Officers (CALPO), and migrants' rights organizations, as well as the Head of the Consular Section of the Mexican Embassy in Ottawa.

Activities included a Virtual Seminar on the Program of Services for Seasonal Agricultural Workers (SAWP) in coordination with the Toronto Neighbourhood Organization (TNO), workshops at farms with the support of the local Occupational Health and Safety and Labour Standards offices of the Ontario Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Social Development (MLITSD), a work meeting with Polycultural Immigrant & Community Services, and an online workshop-discussion with an immigration consultant.

WORLD PREMIERE OF THE FILM VALENTINA OR THE SERENITY AT TIFF

The Mexican film *Valentina o la Serenidad*/*Valentina or the Serenity* had its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) on September 8. The film was presented in Mixtec and Spanish and starred young talent from the Mixtec community of Villa Guadalupe Victoria, Oaxaca.

The premiere was attended by the film's director, Ángeles Cruz (of the Nuu Savi nation) and its talented cast, including the child actor Danahe Ahuja, who plays the lead role, and her co-star Myriam Bravo.

The film tells the story of Valentina, a seven-year-old girl who, after the death of her father, embarks on a journey that will take her from loss to painful acceptance of death. The director and cast were interviewed by Silvia Méndez, the host of *Ahora Canadá*, with whom they discussed the connections between the story told in the film and their own personal experiences.



4TH FARMS OF NORFOLK FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION TOURNAMENT



The Ontario Farms of Norfolk Football Association organized its fourth football tournament between farms in August, inviting seasonal agricultural workers from various countries, including Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and Mexico. Simcoe played host to the sporting competition, where participants were also able to enjoy food, music and a pleasant atmosphere shared by seasonal workers, spectators and organizers.

The Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association (OFVGA), with the support of Farm & Food Care Ontario (FFCO), also attended the event to continue the More than a Migrant Worker project launched in 2021, involving interviews with 135 workers who have shared their stories, attracting more than 130,000 visits to the project website.

INTERVIEWS WITH MEXICANS: MELISSA LOWRY



1. Could you tell us Melissa Lowry's background?

I was born in Monterrey in the Mexican state of Nuevo León. I arrived in Canada at the age of 12 with my parents and brother.

Like everyone else, I went through kind of a difficult time because it was hard for me to adapt to the language and culture change.

To help me to adapt a little, my mother helped me to meet other young Mexicans and that was how I discovered folk dance in Toronto. After graduating from high school, I entered York University and Sheridan College where I studied graphic design.

During that time I pursued my love for dance and my culture and with the support of my classmates founded the folkloric dance ballet Puro Mexico in 2003. Since then I have dedicated myself to pursue my passion for the visual arts and my culture through various projects with the support of my husband and my two twins.

2. What made you move from Mexico to Toronto?

Like many, my parents were looking to give us a better quality of life and provide us with more opportunities.

3. What projects have you completed in Canada, and what are your future ones?

After graduating from university and working for many years as a graphic designer, I decided to start my own business illustrating and making arts and crafts. I saw the need to create a community of entrepreneurs, who like me were looking to find and connect with people with the same goals.

I decided to organize a series of events focused on promoting handmade arts called "Makeology" and given its success with the community after a year I decided to organize the first conference in Canada "Create: Now" focused on the development of these artisans, as well as their own business.

That same year the publishing company Page Street gave me the opportunity to write my first book



"Handmade Animal Dolls", a book that describes step by step the process of how to make dolls designed by me and that I designed when my children were babies.

I also sew my own clothes, and collaborated with several local artists, photographers and designers promoting their work.

4. What has been the biggest cultural difference you have experienced since you arrived?

Although I arrived very young, I have many memories of my country. You definitely miss the warmth of the people, the food, our beautiful and vast culture.

Canada is a beautiful country that welcomes you with open doors but there are no two like Mexico. Toronto is known for its diversity and Canada respects and celebrates the cultures of all countries.

Having married a Canadian I have celebrated year after year very nice customs, some similar to the Mexican ones (in their own way); such as Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Through my own and my children's friendships I have had the opportunity to get to know and learn about other cultures.

I have also had the opportunity to participate in several festivals through the Ballet Folklorico, we have been invited to cultural festivals such as the Panam festival where I have known other countries and their folklore.

5. What advice can you offer to other Mexicans who are considering moving here?

It is very important to arrive with an open mind. There are many differences between the two countries and without a doubt you will miss Mexico, but there are also many things and opportunities that Canada offers us.

As Mexicans it is important to continue with what characterizes us, our work discipline, our ability to adapt and that immense desire to progress but without losing respect for the place where we are.



UPCOMING EVENTS



AGENDA PARA MEXICANOS



ENTREGA DE KITS
Viernes 15: 11:00 a 20:00 hrs.
Sábado 14: 10:00 a 18:00 hrs.
Lugar: TCS Toronto Waterfront Marathon Expo at the Enercare Centre, Hall D

TROTE INTERNACIONAL 3K
Hora: 9:00 am
Lugar: Enercare Centre, Hall D






FOTO MEXICANOS
Hora: 5:00 pm
Lugar: Nathan Phillips Square

MEXICAN CHEER SITE
[Todas bienvenidas!]
Hora: Desde las 8:00 am
Lugar: Lake Shore Blvd. W & York St.
[Como referencia es el 20K del 21K y 42K]






DÍA DE LA CARRERA
5K - 8:00 a.m.
Ontario Place - Lake Shore Blvd W and Ontario Dr.
21k y 42K - 8:45 a.m.
University Avenue between Queen and King St.




Si eres mexicana o mexicano y vives en el extranjero es importante que tramites o actualices tu Credencial para Votar porque:


- Te permitirá participar en el Proceso Electoral Federal 2024.
- Es parte de tu identidad como ciudadana o ciudadano mexicano.
- Es la llave para ejercer tus derechos político-electorales.



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Toronto Symphony Orchestra



Disney Pixar's Coco in Concert

Oct 6 & 7

Film with Live Orchestra

TSO.CA

Concerts at Roy Thomson Hall
For accessible seating, call 416.598.3375



USEFUL LINKS

Consular procedures
<https://consulmex.sre.gov.mx/toronto/index.php/en/>

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

Schedule an appointment:
ONLINE: <http://citas.sre.gov.mx/>

CALL: 1 424 3090009

Mexican Secretariat of Foreign Affairs
www.sre.gov.mx

Mexican Embassy in Canada
<https://embamex.sre.gov.mx/canada/index.php/es/>

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