

CONSUL...TING

CONSULATE GENERAL OF MEXICO – MONTHLY NEWSLETTER – AUGUST 2018

“Consul..ting”
is the monthly
publication of the
Consulate General of
Mexico in
Toronto.

consulmex.sre.gob.mx

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MEXICAN FIREFIGHTERS BATTLE FOREST FIRES IN ONTARIO

Over the summer, four contingents of Mexican firefighters travelled to the Canadian provinces of Ontario and British Columbia to help battle forest fires. So far in 2018, Mexico has sent 372 firefighters and specialists to Canada.

This is the third year in a row that Mexico has supported Canada in this heroic work, carried out under the Memorandum of Understanding for the Exchange of Resources for the Management of



primarily of chasing down and putting out hot spots, as well as support in overflights in trouble areas.

At the beginning of August, another contingent of 62 Mexican firefighters was dispatched to British Columbia, made up of 3 brigades with 20 members each, in addition to an Intervention Team Leader and an on-site agency representative, with a view to supporting the firefighting efforts in the province.



Forest Fires between Mexico's National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR) and the Canadian Inter-Institutional Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC) signed in 2014.

This year, there have been 819 forest fires in Ontario, of which 118 remain active, thereby affecting an area of 211,914 hectares. The Mexican team was made up of 310 firefighters and specialists who arrived in three separate deployments at the Northwest Regional Forest Fire Centre located in Sudbury, Ontario.

The tasks of the Mexican firefighters consisted



Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister, Chrystia Freeland, acknowledged and thanked the Mexican firefighters for their work in fighting forest fires in her country, on the occasion of a bilateral meeting at the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs in Mexico on July 26.

This has been the biggest international mobilization of firefighters that Mexico has ever carried out, breaking the previous record of 270 dispatched to Canada in August 2017.

[@CONAFOR](#) [@CIFFC](#)

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL WORKERS PROGRAM

The 2018 Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program (SAWP) is operating at full capacity. In terms of Mexican arrivals, by the end of this season it is expected that around 25,000 Mexican workers will have come to work in Canada, of which 12,000 will be in the provinces of Ontario and Manitoba.

To date, approximately 10,600 workers have arrived in Ontario and Manitoba, representing 90% of the Mexicans assigned to farms in these two provinces.

The SAWP was established in 1974 with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the governments of Mexico and Canada. The seasonal agricultural workers program has contributed to the enhancement of bilateral relations, as well as becoming a model of international labour cooperation, demonstrating the possibility of maintaining a regulated, decent and effective migratory flow of workers.



The Consulate General recognizes the efforts of Mexican workers to contribute to the growth of the local economy and reiterates its commitment to keeping in contact with them to promote respect for all of their rights, including their general working conditions, housing and health.

CONSULATE GENERAL ATTENDS SESSION ON OPEN GOVERNMENT AT TORONTO CITY HALL



The Consulate General attended the information session “My Local Government—It’s For Me” organized by the City of Toronto, aimed primarily at members of the diplomatic corps.

The objective of the session was to provide information on the different ways that the city interacts with citizens, gets them involved, and gives them a voice through programs and opportunities to participate openly in decisions that have an impact on daily life.

Open government policies are extremely important to Mexico, which in 2018 published an open government guide in coordination between the Secretariat of the Public Service, the National Institute for Transparency, Access to Information and Personal Data Protection, the Secretariat of the

Interior, and the Specialized Prosecutor’s Office for Responding to Electoral Crimes (FEPADE).

The organizers also invited representatives of the diplomatic corps to spread information about their initiatives among the communities they represent living in the city of Toronto.

<https://bit.ly/2P40aoW>

SUSTAINABLE HOUSING PROJECT PRESENTED AT CNE

With the support of the Consulate General and Aeroméxico, the project “Sustainable Mobile Housing” by the entrepreneur Paola Denisse Barreiro Estrada from the State of Mexico will represent our country in the Innovation Garage at the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE). The project is participating in 3 categories: i) Women Entrepreneurs; ii) Home and Everyday Life, with projects to make different aspects of everyday life more efficient; and iii) Health and Wellness.

“Sustainable Mobile Housing” offers solutions to environmental, social and economic problems arising from climate change. Mexico’s participation in this event allows Mexican innovators, entrepreneurs and inventors to present their projects, products and services using Mexican technology.

[Sustainable Housing](#)



Image: Paola Barreiro

CULTURAL AFFAIRS

AMANDA MARTÍNEZ PERFORMS ON THE PATIO AT ROY THOMSON HALL

As part of the 5th edition of the Live on the Patio series at Roy Thomson Hall, organized by the Corporation of Massey Hall & Roy Thomson Hall, Mexican singer Amanda Martínez offered a free concert at the facilities of the Roy Thompson Hall in Toronto.

To a packed crowd, the singer performed a mixture of Mexican and African compositions to demonstrate the intersection of influences between the respective folk traditions and forms of musical and artistic expression of the two regions. In addition, Martínez offered smooth and profoundly moving renditions of classics from the extensive Mexican songbook, including:



“Sabor a mí”, “Cucurrucucu Paloma” and “Que bonita esta vida”.

Amanda Martínez is a talented artist born in Canada of a Mexican father and a South African mother, who has won numerous Canadian music industry awards, including Canada’s National Jazz Award for Best International Music Album of 2007.

Amanda’s work has been featured on mainstream Canadian media and she was interviewed by the CNN news network when she launched her most recent US tour. In 2014, she was named one of the 10 most influential Hispanic Canadians by the Hispanic Business Alliance.

[@amandamartinezm](https://twitter.com/amandamartinezm)



MEXICAN PAVILION AT THE FOLKLORAMA FESTIVAL

For 11 years, the Mex y Can Association of Manitoba has been successfully organizing the Mexican Pavilion at the Folklorama Multicultural Festival, promoting Mexican music, dance, cuisine and handicrafts.

This year, the Mexican fiesta had the slogan “Para bailar la Bamba” featuring the states of Veracruz, Campeche and Tabasco, and included performances by 26 dancers from the Ballet Folklórico de la Universidad Veracruzana. From August 5 to 11, the event received around 18,000 visitors, most of them Canadians. The cultural display included 25 music and folk



shows, a replica of an Olmec stone head, rooms dedicated to the featured states, memorabilia from the film *La Bamba* and the sale of Mexican handicrafts and food.

The Consul General in Toronto congratulated the members of Mex Y Can and the wider Mexican community in Manitoba for promoting Mexican traditions, food and entertainment through this important festival. At the same time, it recognized the achievements of the association in promoting cultural, academic and sports projects in Manitoba on the occasion of its 15th anniversary.

[@mexycanmb](https://twitter.com/mexycanmb)



CULTURAL AFFAIRS

EVENTS

Festival México, Cielito Lindo

August 17, 8 pm, Gotta dance / 3581 Dundas West

August 18, 8 pm, Fleck Dance Theatre Harbourfront Centre in Toronto / 207 Queens Quay W, Toronto, ON M5J 1A7

More info: http://www.harbourfrontcentre.com/whatson/dance.cfm?id=10000&festival_id=0



Pan American Food & Music Festival 2018

August 24 to 25 / Yonge-Dundas Square / 1 Dundas E, Toronto, Ontario M5B 2R8

More info: <http://panamfest.com/about-2018/>



Mexican participation at the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE)

August 17 to 19, 11am to 9 pm.

Innovation garage: "Sustainable Mobile Housing"/ 210 Princes' Blvd, Exhibition Place, Toronto, ON M6K 3C3

More info: <https://theex.com/main/entertainment/cneinnovation/cne-emerging-innovators-pitch-competition-2017/ontario-pitch-competition/>



Karaoke Night - Tributo to Luis Miguel

August 23, 7pm to 11:30 pm. / The Joint-Hogtown Smoke / 55 Colborne St. Toronto, ON M5E 1E3

More info: <https://karaokeluismiguel.eventbrite.ca>



September 15
MEXICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY 2018

NATHAN PHILLIPS SQUARE
11:00 AM - 9:00 PM

Traditional Dancers, Mariachi, Rock, Arts & Crafts.
Food Vendors: Rebozos, La Mexicana, El Trompo Móvil, Wrestlers, Tacos 101, Pancho's Bakery, Ixiim Chef Erika Araujo.
Traditional Costume Contest for children at 2:30pm, adults at 5:00pm.
Enter to win prizes including flights to Mexico. Early registration required on site.
Tamal eating contest, limited spaces available.

Don't miss the Independence Day Ceremony

PRESENTED BY:
COMITÉ ORGANIZADOR DE LAS FIESTAS PATRIAS
AND CONSULADO GENERAL DE MEXICO EN TORONTO

Free!

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CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

2018 Call for Submissions for the Mexican Government's Program of Grants for Academic Groups of Indigenous Canadians

The Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (SRE), through the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID), announces a call for submissions from Canadian post-secondary institutions interested in academic exchanges under the scheme of short exchanges with Mexican intercultural and bilingual universities to apply for the Mexican Government's Program of Grants for Academic Groups of Indigenous Canadians.

More info: <https://www.gob.mx/amexcid/documentos/mexican-government-grant-program-for-canadian-indigenous-students-2018?state=published>

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>

THE CONSULATE

WELCOMING NEW CONSULATE OFFICIALS

DEPUTY CONSUL GENERAL LUIS ÁNGEL CASTAÑEDA FLORES

Luis Ángel Castañeda Flores has been a career diplomat for 11 years. He was Consul for Community, Economic and Cultural Affairs at the Consulate General in Phoenix, Arizona (2007-2012), and was responsible for social programs and Mexican community relations at the Consulate General in Chicago, Illinois (2012-2015). In Mexico he worked as Director for the G-20 for the Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs (2015-2017) and as an advisor in the Secretary's Offices (2017-2018).

He holds a bachelor's degree in economics from the Universidad Autónoma de Puebla, which included studies in Canada and France. He is married and has one daughter. In his free time, he likes to read, run, and listen to music.

"Between 2001 and 2002, I had the opportunity to complete part of my university studies in Canada, in the city of Montreal. It was an enriching experience in academic terms, but also in terms of personal growth. What impressed me most was the multiculturalism that sets this country apart.

Later, I had the good fortune of spending the first eight years of my career as a member of the Mexican Foreign Service working with the Mexican community in the United States.



Now I am very excited to be returning to Canada, 17 years later, to join the work team led by Ambassador Porfirio Muñoz Ledo at the Consulate General in Toronto. I have the task and the conviction to serve the Mexican community once again and to contribute to the continued strengthening of ties between Mexico and Canada, specifically Ontario and Manitoba."



IT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER JUAN DOMINGO ABARCA SALAS



Juan Domingo Abarca Salas is a member of the Mexican Foreign Service and a specialist in information technology. In the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs he works as a regional IT expert, whose main role is to facilitate the proper operation of the IT structures, data protection and computer resources of Mexican diplomatic offices around the world.

He has previously served as regional IT specialist at the embassy in Bolivia, with responsibility for the embassies in Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, and Peru.

He also served as regional IT specialist at the embassy in Turkey, providing support for the computer infrastructure of the embassies in Azerbaijan, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, and Lebanon, the Consulate General in Istanbul, and the Mexican Representative Office in Palestine.

He speaks English and Turkish. In his free time, he enjoys painting. He is married and has two children.

CONSULAR SERVICES

ELECTRONIC TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION (ETA) FOR MEXICAN TRAVELERS

Mexican visitors who travel to Canada either to enter the country or to transit to another destination, will only need to complete an Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA).

The eTA must be applied for at least 3 days prior to travel from the following Canadian government website:

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/apply-how.asp>

POWER OF ATTORNEY

The Consul General is empowered to act as a Mexican notary public, and is therefore able to issue powers of attorney with legal validity in Mexico. Any person or company located in Ontario or Manitoba may submit a power of attorney for the appointment of a person to act on their behalf in a lawsuit, in the administration of a business or in the purchase or sale of goods in Mexico.

Appointments must be scheduled through MEXITEL (1-877-639-4837) or online <https://mexitel.sre.gob.mx> For more information about requirements and fees, please visit our website www.consulmex2.sre.gob.mx/toronto or call (416) 368-2875, ext. 237.

TRAVELLING TO MEXICO

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>

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

¿Tienes planes de viaje a Canadá?



Tramita tu Autorización Electrónica de Viaje (eTA)

¡Es muy sencillo! ingresa a la página
www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/eta.asp
y completa el formulario en línea.

Recuerda que puedes ingresar desde
cualquier computadora o dispositivo móvil,
sólo necesitas:

- Tu pasaporte vigente.
- Una tarjeta de crédito o débito.*
- Un correo electrónico válido.

*El costo de la eTA es de 7 dólares canadienses (no reembolsables).



Tourism Board

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: cancham.mx
- 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>

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