

# CONSUL...TING

CONSULATE GENERAL OF MEXICO - MONTHLY NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2018

**"Consul...ting" is the monthly publication of the Consulate General of Mexico in Toronto.**

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## MEXICAN PRESIDENT ENRIQUE PEÑA NIETO LEADS MEXICO'S 29TH MEETING OF AMBASSADORS AND CONSULS

The President of Mexico, Enrique Peña Nieto, led the 29th Meeting of Ambassadors and Consuls, held from January 9 to 11, 2017, in Mexico City.

This meeting brings together the heads of diplomatic and consular offices of Mexico around the world with the main purpose of defining the Mexican government's directives in matters of foreign policy for the upcoming year and the priorities that should be adopted to continue positioning Mexico as an actor with global responsibility.



The President noted that 2017 had been a redefining moment in Mexico's relations with its regional environment and that North America, with its enormous potential for shared prosperity and global competitiveness, is undergoing a process of change. On this point, he remarked that Mexico is in a stage of dialogue and negotiation with Canada and the United States, countries with which it has a multi-dimensional, complex and strategic relationship.



At the National Palace in Mexico City, President Peña Nieto declared that "a country's greatness is measured by the wellbeing of its people and the value of its contributions to the world." He added that Mexico, as an actor on the global stage, is responsible for promoting solutions of mutual benefit and not assuming unilateral or irreconcilable positions; for defending the national interest without seeking to harm other nations; and for generating wealth at home while promoting regional and global prosperity.



He also asserted that the renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement would be a central foreign policy issue in 2018 and expressed optimism about the possibility of reaching an agreement that would benefit all three member nations.

He also stressed that Mexico's relationship with Canada has become one of its soundest, and that we should continue to expand political and business dialogue to promote geo-strategic, economic and commercial value. Source: Press Office—[Presidency](http://Presidency)



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## SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS LUIS VIDEGARAY OPENS THE REC2018

Mexico's Secretary of Foreign Affairs chaired the opening event of the 2018 Meeting of Consuls and Ambassadors (REC2018), which took place from January 4 to 11 in Mexico City.

The Foreign Secretary declared that in 2018 Mexico would continue to promote engagement with countries on all continents with a view to establishing and continuing projects of mutual cooperation.

Secretary Videgaray emphasized that the world is currently in a process of change, a process of challenges and uncertainties, of technological changes and of a questioning of the benefits of globalization in general, which have translated into dramatic political changes that affect the way that Mexico engages with the world.



The Foreign Secretary stressed that Mexican foreign policy requires reflection entailing a questioning of how our country engages with the world, what our objectives are and what our strategies are to safeguard and promote the national interest.

In this complex and challenging context, he referred to diplomatic principles and traditions, especially those outlined in Article 89, Subsection 10 of the Mexican Constitution, which are the guiding principles that give Mexico clear parameters for how to act on the world stage.

In bilateral matters, Secretary Videgaray recognized that 2017 was a positive year for Mexico's relationship with Canada, highlighting Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's visit to the country in October. He stated that the collaborative work would continue,



not only in the renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) but also in initiatives for cooperation and exchanges with this country.

Secretary Videgaray thanked the embassies and consulates for their hard work on the occasion of the earthquakes in September of last year, and also recognized the efforts of the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID) in coordinating and channelling the international aid received.



Finally, he reiterated the instructions to Secretariat staff to maintain strict neutrality and impartiality with respect to the electoral process in 2018

Source: Press Release [S R E](#)



## INE: MEXICAN CITIZENS REGISTER TO VOTE IN THE ELECTIONS OF JULY 1, 2018

The National Electoral Institute (INE) is an autonomous, public organization, with an independent character regarding its decisions and functioning. INE organizes free, equitable and reliable electoral processes to guarantee the exercise of the political-electoral rights of the citizenship and contribute to the development of democratic life of Mexico.

In 2018, Mexicans living abroad will be able to vote to elect a new President who will serve a six-year term, new members of the Senate and Congress, as well as Governors from the States of Chiapas, Guanajuato, Jalisco, Morelos, Puebla, Yucatan and Mexico City.

For more information: <http://www.votoextranjero.mx/web/>

**Regístrate para participar desde el extranjero en 2018**



## AEROMÉXICO AND THE MEXICO TOURISM BOARD PROMOTE MEXICAN TOURISM



On December 6, 2017, the Mexican airline Aeroméxico, in collaboration with the Mexico Tourism Board (MTB), offered business leaders, executives and tour operators a guided tour of the exhibition “Guillermo del Toro: At Home with Monsters” at the Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO) in Toronto.

Aeroméxico’s Regional Sales Director, Michele D. Martinson, highlighted the growth of the airline in the Canadian market over the last two years, and thanked the MTB for their support in joint efforts to promote different Mexican destinations. She also stressed that the airline offers daily connections between Mexico City and Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal and Calgary.

## MEETING ORGANIZED BY THE ONTARIO MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE



The Consulate General took part in an information meeting on December 18, 2017, organized by the Ontario Ministry of International Trade and chaired by Minister Michael Chan, with the diplomatic corps and with accredited trade representatives in Toronto.

At the meeting, Minister Chan reiterated to those present that Ontario’s trade growth was due largely to the good relationship the province maintains with each of its partner nations and friends, and that this meeting constituted an invitation to strengthen existing ties.

## MEETING WITH NEW REPRESENTATIVE OF ONTARIO IN MEXICO

The Consul General, together with the Representative of ProMéxico, Rodrigo Contreras, welcomed the Government of Ontario’s new representative in Mexico, Mr. Stephen Kobryn, accompanied by Melanie Fernandes from the Ontario Ministry of International Trade.



Mr. Kobryn will be based in our country to continue to strengthen ties between Mexico and the province, while aiming to align the province’s promotional messaging to the realities of the Mexican market. Mr. Kobryn remarked that there is a window of opportunity for the diversification of trade relations in view of the current NAFTA negotiations.

@OntarioenMexico / @ProMexico



## CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

### ANTHROPOLOGIST AND CURATOR MARTA TUROK OFFERS PUBLIC LECTURE AT THE TEXTILE MUSEUM OF CANADA

Mexican anthropologist and curator Marta Turok offered a public lecture on January 17, entitled "From Uncertain Origins to Uncertain Futures: The Ikat Rebozo from Mexico", in the context of the rebozo exhibition "Tied, Dyed and Woven: Ikat Textile Expressions from Latin America" at the Textile Museum of Canada (TMC) in Toronto.

The anthropologist highlighted the geographical origin of the rebozo and the different techniques used to make them, underscoring the historic moment of the birth of the Ikat technique and the differences between the producers who use them. She also talked about the evolution of the rebozo out of the sarape in the 18th and 19th centuries, particularly in relation to its use by Mexico's different social classes, as well as the history of the weavers and the technique used in Mexico by the producers of this traditional garment.

During her talk she displayed images of the towns where rebozos continue to be produced, highlighting Santa María del Río in the state of San Luis Potosí and Tenancingo in the State of Mexico, and noting the innovative technique of the craftsmen Arturo Estrada and Evaristo Hernández, as well as the innovative designs of Carla Fernández and Carmen Rión.



Marta Turok gave a guided tour of the exhibition, which features 37 looms owned by the TMC, and which will remain open to the public until March 18, 2018.

<http://www.textilemuseum.ca/>



# MEXICANS IN TORONTO

## AN INTERVIEW WITH JORGE ZARATE AND GUADALUPE VELASCO FOLK DANCE TEACHERS

Jorge Zarate is originally from the Mexican state of San Luis Potosí and holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Instituto Politécnico Nacional (IPN). Guadalupe Velasco was born in Mexico City and holds a Bachelor of Laws degree from Universidad del Valle de México (UVM). Both now live in Toronto.

Jorge is the general director and founder of the Mexicans Folk Ballet dance company, and Guadalupe is the company's co-founder. Both are dance teachers and together they also direct Casa Cultural Mexicana. Jorge began his dancing career nearly 45 years ago, and has formed part of countless groups in Mexico, both amateur and professional.

### Tell us about the creation of the dance company in Toronto.

We founded the Mexicans Folk Ballet in 2012 and it is directed by Jorge, Guadalupe, the teacher Raimundo Moreno, Rafael Hernandez and Marco Osorio. The ballet has represented our country with great success at different festivals in Canada, China, Spain, France, Greece and Nepal.



To meet the needs of the community in Toronto, we created the Mexicans Jr. Folk Ballet, for children aged from 3 to 6 and from 7 to 13. We also established a group for older adults, the Mexicans Sr., and the company's choir directed by the recognized baritone Cesar Bello.

The mission of the Mexicans Folk Ballet is to promote traditional dance in its purest expression, creating new ideas, using technology and creating more educational forms of dissemination to offer the public a different way of learning about and appreciating Mexican culture. Our work is not only to present good quality shows, but also to train better dancers.

### How did the Casa Cultural Mexicana project come into being?

Casa Cultural Mexicana (CCM) was founded as an option for our fellow Mexicans to have artistic contact with Mexico. Many of the centre's members are Mexicans or Mexican-Canadians, which enables us to meet our main objective of promoting an identity in our community through dance, painting, theatre and music. Since it opened, the CCM has been identified as a non-governmental institution that has been consolidated as a bridge



to connect different Canadian institutions.

In three years, the CCM has helped give children and youth a sense of identity and has brought together adults and the elderly by creating age-specific programs and understanding that we are heirs to a notable culture in the world, which enables us to be better members of the Canadian community.

### What plans do you have for 2018?

We plan to take part in local festivals like Carrassagua, the Mexican Independence celebrations, and the Day of the Dead, and we will be launching a program of cultural activities including artists based locally and in Mexico, offering them a forum in Canada.

We will be launching the Mexicans Folk Music project, directed by Cesar Bello, which has the aim of providing live music for all of the dance group's performances. We will be founding the Mexicans Contemporary Dance Company, directed by Raimundo Moreno and Jorge Zarate, and we will be launching the "Skulls" Mexican Dance Company, made up of professional dancers.

We will also be participating in an international folk festival in Lima, Peru, making a tour of Poland and Turkey in the summer, and also touring Montreal, Quebec City and Ottawa.

[www.themexicansdancecompany.com](http://www.themexicansdancecompany.com)





## SERVICES FOR FOREIGNERS

### 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>

## ¿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](http://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).

## TRAVELING 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: <http://consulmex.sre.gob.mx/toronto/index.php/es/visas>

For fees and payment: <http://consulmex.sre.gob.mx/toronto/index.php/es/fees>

**Notice:** The Consulate General of Mexico in Toronto is open to the public by appointment. Please request an appointment by writing to [citas@consulmex.com](mailto:citas@consulmex.com)



## 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](http://www.consulmex2.sre.gob.mx/toronto) or call 416-368-2875, ext. 237.



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/](https://citas.sre.gob.mx/mexitel_web/)

(1-877-639 4835).

For any other service, please request an appointment by writing to [citas@consulmex.com](mailto:citas@consulmex.com) or by calling: (416)368-2875 ext. 236

### USEFUL LINKS

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