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PRESIDENTIAL SWEARING-IN CEREMONY

On December 1, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, Mexico’s president-elect, was sworn in by the Mexican Congress.

The new president stressed that among his first commitments would be the introduction of constitutional reforms and draft amendments to consolidate the welfare state and guarantee the right to health, education and social security for all Mexicans.



He declared that Mexico’s “Fourth Transformation” must “turn honesty and fraternity into a way of life and of governance”, pointing out that “nothing has done more harm to Mexico than the dishonesty of its governors and of the small minority that have benefited from cronyism. That has been the main cause of economic and social inequality, and also of the crime and violence that afflicts our country.”

The government’s response will be to establish an important restriction: “the separation of economic power from political power.” The government “will represent rich and poor, believers and free thinkers, and all Mexicans regardless of ideology, sexual orientation, language, place of origin, educational level or socioeconomic position.”

The President explained that he is aware of the challenges he faces and declared that “I will not let my people down.”

He explained that his government would take responsibility for reducing social inequities and that social justice would no longer be relegated to the bottom of the government agenda.

President López Obrador noted that this historic day was the product of decades of struggle, “without ever losing our dignity along the way”, and he recognized the fighters and activists who had made the moment possible, remembering “those who began this movement, those who sowed what we are now reaping. Social, political leaders, the many who came before us, who were the forerunners in this struggle, in this movement. We will never forget them. “At the ceremony, he promised “that the investments of national and foreign shareholders will be secure and the conditions will be created to ensure good returns, because in Mexico there will be honesty, the rule of law, clear rules, economic growth, and there will be confidence.”



POLITICS AFFAIRS

MARCELO EBRARD, SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



Andrés Manuel López Obrador has appointed Marcelo Ebrard Casaubón as his Secretary of Foreign Affairs. The new head of the Mexican diplomatic corps completed a bachelor's degree in international relations at Colegio de México, and graduate studies in public administration at the ENA (École Nationale d'Administration) in Paris, France.

From 2006 to 2012, he was Head of the Government of the Federal District. In 2010, the World Mayor Project recognized him as the Best Mayor in the World. From 1993 to 1994, he was an Undersecretary in the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs, and subsequently served as a congressman in Mexico's LVII Federal Legislature (1997-2000). As a result of the amendment to Article 76 of the Constitution, for the first time ever the appointment of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs was submitted for approval by the Mexican Senate. On December 6, the Plenary Session of the Upper Chamber unanimously approved Marcelo Ebrard, who, upon being sworn in, acknowledged and thanked the legislators for their support and reiterated his commitment to strengthening the presence of Mexico in the world in collaboration with the Senate.

Senators of all parliamentary groups acknowledged his solid career, congratulated him, wished him success in this commission and expressed their confidence that he would be a worthy representative of Mexico to the world. At the same time, they offered the Senate's support in the tasks that the new Foreign Minister will lead.



LECTURE OF DR. JESUS SEADE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



Dr. Jesús Seade, former representative of the then Mexican Government-elect in the renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement, offered a lecture on November 15 on "The Future of North American Trade" at the University of Toronto's Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy. To an auditorium filled with students, teachers, industry representatives and members of the provincial government, Dr. Seade presented a broad overview of the negotiation process for the new Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (USMCA).

While highlighting the potential benefits of the agreement for trade and financial relations between Mexico and Canada, Dr. Seade made reference to the context of the trade negotiations, the critical points for reaching the agreement and the possible implications for the parties involved and the multilateral trade system in general.

The presentation concluded with a Q&A session with the audience.



On November 27, in a press conference, Marcelo Ebrard announced the appointment of Jesús Seade as Undersecretary for North America in the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs. Dr. Seade holds a degree in chemical engineering from Mexico's National Autonomous University (UNAM) and also studied at Colegio de México and Oxford University. He served as an advisor with the International Monetary Fund, Mexico's representative for the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and Deputy Director-General at the World Trade Organization (WTO).

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

“POSADA” TO SUPPORT MEXICAN AGRICULTURAL WORKERS



The Mexican non-profit association “Enlace” held a community gathering on November 24th to celebrate the traditional Mexican “posada” and to share information about their activities in 2018, in favor of Mexican participants in Ontario in the seasonal agricultural worker program (SAWP) between Mexico and Canada.

The event included Mexican gastronomy and family activities. Children and parents also participated in dance competitions, and later sampled traditional Mexican food served by a group of cheerful volunteers.

The gathering continued with workshops for children on arts and crafts, including the elaboration of traditional “piñatas”, the carol to ask for lodging (“pedir posada”) and an explanation on the arrival of the Three Wise Men. The program concluded with mariachi and dances presented by the Folkloric Ballet “Puro México”.



MEXICO PARTICIPATES AT THE CONCERT “CHARM OF SONG”



On December 9th, the Consulate General was invited to participate in the international concert “*Charm of Song and Dance*” hosted by the Academy of Serbian Folk Dancing Association on the occasion of the 15th Anniversary of their dance and singing group, held at the *John Basset Theatre* in Toronto.

The concert included a wide repertoire of Serbian folk pieces, with honoured guests *The Kodaly Folk Dance Ensemble* from Hungary and *The Mexicans Folk Ballet*.

The Mexican group presented traditional dances from Nayarit, as well as an Aztec dance that was very well received by the audience.

“REMEMBRANCE DAY”



As is done every year, on Sunday, November 11th, Canada observed “Remembrance Day”.

The Deputy Consul-General participated in the official ceremony, held at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario in which, in front of authorities and members of the consular corps, he laid a wreath to remember the sacrifices of armed forces and civilians in times of war.

Prior to the ceremony, the Deputy Consul-General conversed with the Premier of Ontario Doug Ford, and greeted Ontario’s Lieutenant Governor, Elizabeth Dowdeswell.

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

AMERICAN INDUSTRIES SEMINAR



On November 29, the Consulate General took part in the seminar “Mexico: Your Partner to Become More Global and Competitive in a New Environment”, organized by American Industries.

American Industries, a Mexican company headquartered in Chihuahua with a branch in Toronto, offered the seminar to provide information to manufacturing companies, potential investors, and business leaders in general on foreign trade and investment opportunities in Mexico and the services the company offers to manage and support the process of setting up business in Mexico under the “shelter model”.

In his opening speech, the Consul General highlighted the upturn in economic relations between the two countries and the advantages Mexico offers Canadian business leaders and investors following the signing of the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (USMCA).



Emphasis was placed on the priorities of both governments in the area of financial and trade diversification both inside and outside the North American region.

END OF NEW YEAR'S GREETING



The Consulate General wishes all Mexican families a very Merry Christmas and may 2019 be filled with prosperity, peace and health in all homes. It is with pride that we serve the Mexican community in Ontario and Manitoba and to attest that day after day, Mexicans contribute to Canadian economic growth and to the cultural enrichment of the societies they are a part of.

AMBASSADOR DIONISIO PÉREZ JÁCOME'S FAREWELL



He visited the Consulate General and expressed the honour that it had been representing Mexico in Canada; a dynamic and progressive country, and having contributed to the excellent relations between both countries.

On November 30th, 2018 Dionisio Pérez Jácome concluded his term as Ambassador of Mexico in Canada.



MENTORSHIP PROGRAM



The Consulate General was invited to attend the Graduation Ceremony of the Mentorship Program organized by Hispanotech: PwC's Latin Connections, ISACA Toronto Chapter and Javerianos in Canada.

Hispanotech is a non-profit association, whose mission is to contribute to greater participation of the Hispanic community in the technological sector in Canada.

Their program helps Hispanic professionals learn about the local job market, develop strategic connections and learn about the experience of migrating to Canada.

VISIT OF QUINTANA ROO GOVERNMENT

On November 7th, Mtro. Bernardo Cueto, Director-General of the Institute for the Development and Financing of the State of Quintana Roo had a working visit to Toronto.

With the support of the Trade Commissioner's office in Toronto (ProMéxico) he met with Canadian businessmen interested in investing in Mexico.



Mtro. Cueto shared the opportunities presented by his State, beyond the tourism industry.

INTERVIEW WITH MEXICANS IN TORONTO

SALVADOR ALANIS



What is your name and profession?

My name is Salvador Alanis. I studied chemical engineering many years ago. At the same time, I began a career as a writer. The students of my generation at university were very unusual, and a lot of them ended up working in areas that weren't related to chemistry; there were very talented musicians, photograph restorers, doctors in literature, marketing professionals and even bookstore owners. That's why I've never felt different for not having pursued a career in chemical engineering. I worked at first in the area of marketing for different companies, and a little later I studied comparative literature.

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

I'm married to a very talented woman named Ximena Berecochea. She's a photographer, and we met each other through the Mexican Culture and Arts Fund's grant program. While I was working on the production of *Big Brother* in Mexico, I suffered a stress-related immune deficiency and I lost sight in my right eye. Ximena suggested that we move to Canada to get away from the madness I was in when I was working in the television industry. It took us five years to do it and when the moment finally arrived we couldn't even remember what it was that had made us want to make the change. We didn't leave Mexico because we didn't like it there; in fact, we were at a very good moment in our lives. Ximena was having a lot of exhibitions and I was running an advertising agency. We came to Canada because we'd started the process and we felt like trying something new.

When we got here, David Moore, a very dear friend who was President of Leo Burnett Canada, recommended me for the job of Vice-President of Customer Service at Young & Rubicam. Two weeks after arriving we were settled in Toronto, with our two kids and everything.

What is The Bakery and how did the idea of creating the company come about?

When I was at Young & Rubicam my clients in Mexico kept on calling me. I decided to open an agency to create content for brands that would be called The Bakery. We were only the second content agency in the world and we faced a very complex process of having to educate clients and explain to them that advertising has a use-by date and that there are other ways to connect their brands to consumers. Now, content agencies are everywhere. With The Bakery I produced various TV series that were broadcast in Mexico, Canada and the United States.

We have an agreement with the biggest communications company in the world, called WPP, and we work together with agencies like the group's content creation company.

What is the Institute for Creative Exchange?

Robert Walser is a writer that I like a lot and he says that writers don't write, they suffer from a sickness. I like TV production and advertising, but art and literature are things that keep me awake at night if I don't feel them.

Ximena and I had worked on some collaborative projects between artists from different disciplines and we decided to start some interdisciplinary experiments together with the University of Toronto.

Over time, this turned into what we now call ICE (the good ICE, as Francisco Goldman says). ICE is an organization dedicated to artistic and cultural development through international exchange, collaboration between artists and professionals in the cultural industry, and cultural diplomacy. Ximena and I run artistic residencies in Argentina, promote collaborative projects, support the work of cultural organizations, and produce independent projects. We've just finished a documentary on the generation of artists that emerged in Mexico in the 1990s. ICE has brought Ximena and me closer to our work as artists, with the possibility of approaching our careers from a new perspective.

What has your experience in Toronto been like?

Toronto is the greatest. I think it's a wonderful city that is at a really good moment, but it is the victim of the voracity of real estate developers. It is a fun city (I never would have imagined it) that has a lot in common with Prussia in the age of the Rosicrucians. With ICE we have a project called "ICE in the City", where we're working with urban planners, architects and activists from all over the Americas to reflect on the development of cities like Toronto.

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.

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>



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>



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

ENLACES ÚTILES

- Boletín [Lazos](#)
- Información sobre trámites consulares: www.consulmex.com
- Sistema de Registro para Mexicanos en el Exterior: <http://sirme.sre.gob.mx/>
- [MEXITEL](#) haga su cita
- Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores: www.sre.gob.mx
- Embajada de México en Canadá: [EMBAMEX](#)
- Estadísticas de población mexicana en el exterior www.ime.gob.mx/estadisticas
- Presidencia de México www.presidencia.gob.mx
- Secretaría de Turismo www.sectur.gob.mx
- Relación [México-Canadá](#)
- Secretaría de Cultura: <http://www.gob.mx/cultura>

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