

CONSUL...TING

CONSULATE GENERAL OF MEXICO – MONTHLY NEWSLETTER - OCT 2018

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FLAG-RAISING CEREMONY AT THE ONTARIO LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

On September 14, on the occasion of the commemoration of the 208th anniversary of the beginning of Mexican independence, the Mexican flag was raised in a ceremony at the Ontario Legislative Assembly. In his speech after the flag was raised and the Canadian and Mexican national anthems were sung, Consul General Porfirio Thierry Muñoz Ledo stressed that Canada is an indispensable partner for Mexico and that their bilateral relations are founded on trust, solidarity and shared values.



Also speaking at the event was Tony Ruprecht, a former Toronto City Councillor, MPP, and Minister of Immigration and Citizenship. Ruprecht talked about the growth the Mexican community has experienced in Ontario, and its economic and cultural contributions to society. Singer-songwriter Amanda Martinez spoke about her experience as a Mexican-Canadian and about the importance of maintaining and strengthening cultural ties between the two countries.

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Federal MP Julie Dzerowicz read a message to the Mexican people from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on the occasion of Mexican Independence Day, which underscored the essential nature of collaboration for mutual prosperity. MP Dzerowicz also spoke about the growing presence of the Mexican community in Canada and about their contributions “to Ontario diversity”.



ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

THE TRADITIONAL “GRITO” OF INDEPENDENCE IN TORONTO

On September 15, the Consulate General of Mexico in Toronto led the civic ceremony marking the anniversary of the beginning of the struggle for Mexican Independence.

Federal MP Julie Dzerowicz gave a speech that highlighted the contribution of Mexicans to the enhancement of Canada's cultural diversity, while also referring to the strength of relations between our two countries.



The ceremony of the “Grito” of Independence began at 7:30 p.m. with the presentation of the Mexican flag to the Consul General, followed by the patriotic declaration and the waving of the flag, and finally the singing of the national anthem.

At the end of the ceremony the Mariachi “Mexico Amigo” played with enthusiasm.



MP Dzerowicz is one of three federal MPs of Latin American origin and the only one with Mexican roots.

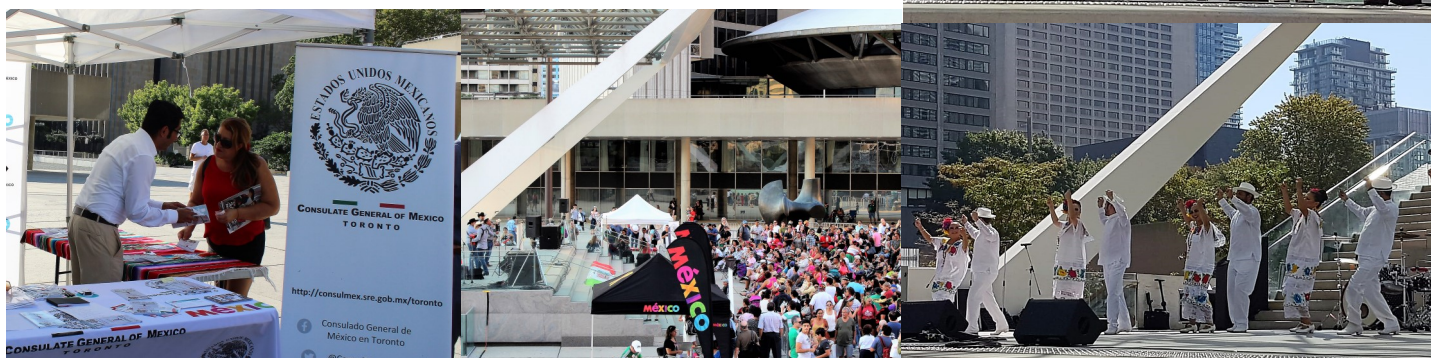
The federal MP shared a moving message of congratulations sent by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to the people of Mexico on the occasion of the 208th anniversary of the beginning of their fight for freedom.



OPEN-AIR CELEBRATION TO COMMEMORATE INDEPENDENCE DAY

The Mexican community held the traditional *verbena popular* (open-air celebration) to commemorate Mexican Independence Day. The festival began at 11 a.m and offered a varied cultural and artistic program featuring Mexican musical groups, a mariachi band, and three dance companies. During the day, children's activities and workshops on Mexican cuisine were also offered.

The Consulate General set up an information and advice booth to serve the Mexican community, providing general information about consular services.



CULTURAL AFFAIRS

PRESENTATION OF THE “DISTINGUISHED MEXICANS” AWARD

On Friday, September 14, the “*Mexicanos Distinguidos*” award was presented to the Mexican violinist Paulina Derbez, during the official flag-raising ceremony at the Ontario Legislative Assembly.

The ceremony was attended by around one hundred personalities, including local government officials, members of the Ontario provincial parliament, members of the consular corps in Toronto, and members of the Mexican community and the media. The Consul General of Mexico explained the nature of the award, which was recently established by the Institute for Mexicans Abroad (IME) to recognize the exceptional careers of Mexicans around the world.



In this first edition, the distinction was awarded to 31 Mexicans who have stood out in their respective professional fields, and Paulina Derbez was one of the two people selected in Canada. The Consul General stressed that Derbez's brilliant career as a violinist inspires our fellow Mexicans living outside the country and enhances Mexico's image abroad. Derbez thanked the government of Mexico and talked about her experience as a professional musician and artistic director of the México Contemporáneo Foundation.



MEXICO AT THE TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL



Mexico had a strong presence at the 43rd edition of the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), held from September 6 to 16. The country was represented by eight featured productions: *Museo*, *The Good Girls*, *The Chambermaid*, *Fausto*, *Roma*, *Belmonte*, *Our Time* and *Birds of Passage*. The presence of Mexican filmmakers, actors and producers was notable; these included Alonso Ruizpalacios (director of *Museo*), Lila Avilés (*The Chambermaid*), Andrea Bussman (*Fausto*), and cast members of *Roma* and *The Good Girls*. Also present was Alfonso Cuarón, winner of the Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival for his film *Roma*, who also presented a Q&A session related to the film. Actor Gael García Bernal, writer Guadalupe Loaeza, actor Ilse Salas, and writer Alejandra Márquez were present as representatives of the Mexican film industry. The Mexican Institute of Cinematography offered a reception in honour of the Mexican producers, directors and actors participating in this year's TIFF. The Consul General recognized the talent of young Mexican producers and filmmakers, which has given a new boost to emerging markets.

CULTURAL SPACE

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

The Consulate General was invited to the launch of Hispanic Heritage Month, which was attended by Toronto's mayor, John Tory, federal senator Rosa Galvez, and Minister of Canadian Heritage Pablo Rodríguez, along with the Consuls of Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador, Spain, Mexico, and Peru.



In the context of this celebration, the Mexican film *108 costuras* enjoyed a successful premiere at the Toronto Latin American Film Festival. Mexican producer and director Gastón Pavlovich was present and, in a dialogue with the audience of more than 200 people, he highlighted the fact that the film shows the nobility of the Mexican people and the importance of respect, solidarity, dedication and honesty.



BETSABEÉ ROMERO EXHIBIT



"Braided Roots" features five monumental works made of carved wood, cast bronze, cut vinyl displayed in a mural, tractor tires, feathers, deer hide and video projections that form a series of interconnected plumes. Betsabeé explains that culture is always in motion, like a force of knowledge shared over time and space.



The Art Gallery of York University opened an exhibit by Mexican artist Betsabeé Romero on September 13, titled "Braided Roots", in collaboration with Indigenous Canadian artist Cathie Jamieson.



The project had a duration of five months in which the curators and students at York University were able to interact with and create an exhibit that combines the traditions of Mexico's and Canada's indigenous peoples.

EVENTS

Amanda Martínez will be performing on Saturday, October 27 at 8:00 p.m. at the Koerner Hall, at 273 Bloor St. West. <https://www.rcmusic.com/events-and-performances/amanda-martinez-and-kellylee-evans>



As part of the Day of the Dead celebration, on October 28 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, the Evergreen Brickworks Cultural Center will showcase Altars along with Mexican music and dancing performances. <https://www.evergreen.ca/whats-on/event/annual-day-of-the-dead-celebration/>

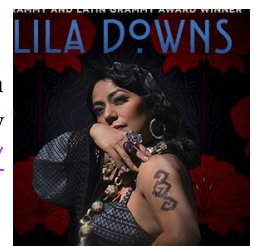


Quique Escamilla will mix music, theater, and dance on November 2nd at 8 pm, at the Koerner Hall, 273 Bloor St. West.

<https://www.rcmusic.com/events-and-performances/quique-escamillas-day-dead-celebration>



Lila Downs will perform in Toronto on November 7th at 8:00 PM at the Sony Centre, 1 Front St. East. <http://www.sonycentre.ca/calendar-event-details/?id=435>



INTERVIEW WITH MEXICANS IN TORONTO

SERGIO LASKY, PRESIDENT OF UNIKRON



What is your name and profession?

Hi, my name is Sergio Lasky, and I've been living in Canada for 19 years.

I was born in Mexico City, where I completed a degree in graphic design and where I began my professional career in the world of design, managing corporate identities for financial institutions, as well as visual communication design for products.

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

I would describe my experience as an immigrant as like being born again, because when you arrive in a new country you know absolutely nobody, you go through a lot of trials which are ultimately all good because every experience, as difficult or hard as it may have been, teaches you something new.

My first job opportunity was at an advertising agency; at the end of the trial period they told me that I wasn't ready for the position, and deep down I think they were right, because my Canadian experience was practically null.

Curiously, 12 years later I was named one of the 10 most successful Mexicans in Canada, which made me reflect on the definition of "success". For me, success means being able to develop professionally and in your personal life, and above all never giving up.

How did the idea of creating UNIKRON come about?

UNIKRON was the result of combining the efforts of three people with a vision—Alex Weisz, Manuel Rodríguez and myself—with the mission to offer the best quality in video production for the corporate sector. We are a video content agency.

UNIKRON was founded on June 7, 2002, with the aim of offering a video production solution for the online world. This was still in the dot-com era, long before the existence of YouTube.

Our main clients are housing development groups in Canada, particularly in Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa.

We've also worked for the corporate world, including for major banks and financial institutions, and for non-profit organizations.

Our office is rather modern and avant-garde, and it's located in one of the Toronto neighbourhoods that has undergone the most development in recent years, at 495 Adelaide Street West. We also have a film studio and editing rooms for production and post-production.

What plans do you have for 2019?

We're planning to expand our offices to a new location in the city's west end, in a place dedicated to artistic creation, learning and collaboration in the creative world.

It's called Artscape Youngplace, at 180 Shaw Street, and it's a place where artists and organizations working under the same roof represent a vibrant blend of ways of thinking, artistic creation and cultural expression.

This neighbourhood is one of the most creative in the country, and it is an important centre for contemporary art in Canada; in fact, Artscape Youngplace won the Heritage Toronto Award in 2015.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

Yes. Canada is an extraordinary country, with so much cultural variety in a single place, offering a multicultural experience like nowhere else in the world.

Last of all, I would like to share how proud I feel to be Mexican and Canadian at the same time, because I believe I have the best of both worlds and, most importantly, I have the support of my family.



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).

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.



SIRME

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>

CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS



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, mas-



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: canchamx.com
- 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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