



# Consul...ting



## Mexican Independence Day Celebration in Toronto

On Saturday September 14 in Toronto, a crowd of over 2,500 people celebrated the 203rd anniversary of Mexican Independence.

The event was arranged by the Organizing Committee for the Fiestas Patrias (National Day Festivities) and the Consulate General.

In keeping with a tradition dating back almost twenty years, the event took place in Nathan Phillips Square (Toronto City Hall).

From noon until 8 p.m., Mexican food was served up by local restaurants and patriotic merchandise was sold by vendors, among whom were included small Mexican businesses based in Toronto.

The day also featured live music, folkloric dance performances, and regional costume contests for children and adults.

The Consulate General hosted an informa-



*Consul General Mauricio Toussaint led the Cry of Independence ceremony*

tion stand where staff responded to questions about consular services.

At the invitation of the Consulate General, representatives from the Toronto offices of ProMexico and the Mexico Tourism Board

were present at the festival for the first time this year. They engaged with the public about their activities and handed out brochures and promotional materials.

At 6 p.m. Consul General Mauricio Toussaint led the official ceremony of the Cry of Independence, and the Mexican national anthem was sung.

The celebration was covered by local news agencies.



## The Mexican flag was raised at the Ontario legislature

On September 13, the Mexican flag was raised in the gardens facing the Ontario Legislative Assembly in Toronto. Before the ceremony, the Consul General Mauricio Toussaint signed the Legislative Assembly's ceremonial book of distinguished guests.

Attending the event were representatives from local Mexican associations, business professionals, members of the consular corps, and academics. Also present were guests from the provincial government, notably the Ontario Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sports, Michael Chan, who represented Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne; and MPP Rosario Marchese.

At the ceremony, Consul Toussaint raised the Mexican flag and the Canadian and Mexican national anthems were sung.

The Consulate General hosted a reception

following the ceremony at the legislative building. MPP Marchese welcomed those present on behalf of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, Dave Levac, and acknowledged the commemoration of Mexico's Independence Day. Minister Chan also shared his best wishes to Mexico in recognition of its Independence Day, and read a message from Premier Wynne.

Consul Toussaint said that the year 1810 marked the beginning of Mexico's fight for independence and its challenge to injustice after three centuries of domination. 203 years



*Consul General Mauricio Toussaint and Ontario's Minister of Tourism and Culture, Michael Chan*



later, he said, Mexico is a modern nation with a prominent position among the world's largest economies.

Consul Toussaint then described the Consulate General's activities over the past year in

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the context of bilateral relations between Mexico and Canada. These activities included, among other projects, promoting trade and investment –Ontario represents two thirds of Mexico’s total trade with Canada–; promoting tourism –more than half a million residents of Ontario visit Mexico each year–; building on programs of cultural cooperation with the University of Toronto and York University; and participating in festivals at the Harbourfront Centre, as well as sponsoring the exhibi-

tion at the Art Gallery of Ontario entitled “Frida & Diego: Passion, Politics and Painting.”

The Consul General emphasized the two countries’ successful collaboration on the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program and the growth in the number of Mexican residents in Ontario, which has led to the establishment of Mexican business and cultural associations. He said that these associations have strengthened the ties between members of the Mexican community and have helped with the inte-

gration of the Mexican community in Canada.

Consul Toussaint also noted that 2014 will be the 70th anniversary of Mexico and Canada’s diplomatic relationship, the 20th anniversary of the entry into force of the North American Free Trade Act, and the 10th anniversary of the Canada-Mexico Partnership.

Finally, Consul Toussaint indicated Mexico’s firm commitment to being a strong and active participant at the 2015 Pan American and Parapan American Games in Toronto.

## Ambassador Francisco Suárez discusses the Pacific Alliance in Toronto

On September 30 in downtown Toronto, the Mexican Ambassador to Canada, Francisco Suárez Dávila, participated in a discussion about the Pacific Alliance hosted by the Canadian Council of the Americas.

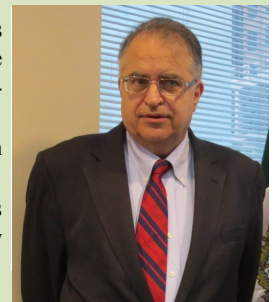
Also speaking at the meeting were Ambassadors to Canada Roberto Ibarra (Chile), José Antonio Bellina (Peru), and Nicolás Lloreda-Ricaurte (Colombia).

The Pacific Alliance was created in July 2012 to facilitate the free movement of goods, services, capital and

people, as well as to strengthen trade and investment ties with Asia. The countries with membership in the Alliance are Chile, Peru, Colombia and Mexico. Canada is an observer to the Alliance.

The Pacific Alliance represents a market of 209 million people.

On September 25, in New York, the Pacific Alliance’s Business Council presented the achievements made by working groups from the four member countries.



## Mexican Artists and Chefs at the Pan American Food Festival

Several Mexican artists and chefs brought their talents to the Harbourfront Centre’s Pan American Food Festival over the weekend of September 20, giving Mexico a significant presence at the event. The festival’s inaugural ceremony was led by Ontario’s Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sports, Michael Chan, and Consul General Mauricio Toussaint was in attendance to support the Mexican participants.

At the opening ceremony, various countries from the Americas offered samples of their national cuisine.

Representing Mexico, Indalecio Marroquín from “Rebozos” and José Hadad from “Frida” delighted the crowd, while Jaral de Berrio provided a tequila and mezcal tasting.

On Friday night, the musical group Café con Pan performed traditional *sones* from Veracruz on the Redpath Stage. Chef Indalecio Marroquín ran a chicken tinga taco workshop on Saturday September 21 and a children’s cooking workshop on Sunday September 22. Also on Saturday, Mexican chef Paola Solórzano gave a cooking demonstration on

how to prepare crab empanadas.

The Pan American Food Festival was also a venue for the visual arts: There were screenings of nine food-themed documentaries, presented by Huatulco Film and Food Festival with assistance from Mexico’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mexican chef Paola Solórzano’s “Crab turnovers in red masa” was one of five recipes included in the food festival’s promotional booklet.

**Consul General Mauricio Toussaint at the tequila and mezcal tasting**



**Ontario’s Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sports Michael Chan**



**Consul General Mauricio Toussaint and Chef Indalecio Marroquín**



**Consul General Mauricio Toussaint and chef José Hadad**





## Mexican film “The Amazing Catfish” wins the Fipresci prize at TIFF

The Mexican film “The Amazing Catfish” (Los insólitos peces gato), by Claudia Sainte-Luce, won the Fipresci prize for the Discovery Program at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF).

The International Federation of Film Critics (Fipresci) jury remarked that Sainte-Luce’s debut film showed a “precocious, playful and poignant grasp of the fluid nature of family and the capability of the human heart under the most dire conditions for generosity, empathy and tenderness.” The jury was composed of six film critics from Canada, the United States,

India, Greece, and Germany.

“The Amazing Catfish” tells the story of the friendship and solidarity between Martha, an ailing mother of four, and Claudia, a lonely young woman. The film was screened three times as part of TIFF’s Discovery program. Sainte-Luce attended the film’s screenings.

Claudia Sainte-Luce was born in Veracruz, Mexico. She has created several short films including “Muerte anunciada” (2006) which was shown at the Festival Expresión en Corto in Guanajuato, Mexico. She also directed the short film “El milagrito de San Jacinto” (2007).

Other Mexican films at TIFF included “Club Sandwich” by Fernando Eimbcke; “The Mayor” (El Alcalde) by Emiliano Altuna Fistoleira, Carlos Federico Rossini and Diego Osorno; and “Paradise” (Paraíso) by Mariana Chenillo.

On September 6, a reception was held to promote the Mexican films shown at TIFF. The Consulate General and the Mexican Film Institute (IMCINE) provided support for the event.

Attending the reception was Deputy Consul Santiago Mateos; the Director of International



Scene from the film “The Amazing Catfish”



Director Fernando Eimbcke and Deputy Consul Santiago Mateos

Affairs at IMCINE, Monserrat Sánchez; the Director of Promotion at IMCINE, Cristina Prado; as well as Mexican filmmakers, journalists and film critics.

One of the Consulate General’s cultural initiatives this year was to assist with the success of Mexico’s participation at TIFF.

In addition to sponsoring the young director Fernando Eimbcke so that he could personally present his film to its Toronto audience, the Consulate helped arrange for other Mexican directors to attend the festival.

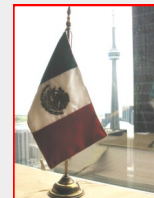
This year, Mexico’s presence at TIFF grew, with the inclusion of four Mexican films and four Mexican co-productions in the festival.

### USEFUL LINKS

- **Visas and consular services:** [consulmex.com](http://consulmex.com)
- **Mexican Embassy in Canada**
- **Facebook Consulmex**
- **Twitter ConsulMexTor**
- **Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Mexico:** [canchammx.com](http://canchammx.com)
- **Presidency of Mexico:** [presidencia.gob.mx](http://presidencia.gob.mx)
- **Secretary of Foreign Affairs:** [sre.gob.mx](http://sre.gob.mx)
- **Mexican restaurants in Toronto & GTA** [\[click here\]](#)
- **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)



### [www.consulmex.com](http://www.consulmex.com)



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Press Office  
Isabel Inclan

Phone: (416) 368-2875 ext.238  
E mail: [prensa@consulmex.com](mailto:prensa@consulmex.com)