

With the start of the New Year, the BelgiumInCanada Team is launching a brand new periodic Newsflash. There is indeed a lot happening of which we, Belgians in Canada, can be proud. That is why we would like to keep you informed of future Belgo-Canadian events and interesting facts. This new info-channel complements the existing FB and twitter pages of the Embassy and the Consulate-General, which also show pics and short reports of the events. Of course: the more "likes" the merrier! And that certainly also applies to the numerous Belgian associations, business clubs and FB groups in Canada that are committed to you and which we list further into the Newsflash.

Only with your support can this newsflash grow to its full potential, so don't hesitate to share information and suggestions with us.

Enjoy reading!

Johan Verkammen
Ambassador, Ottawa
Ottawa@diplobel.fed.be

Hubert Roisin
Consul General, Montréal
Montreal@diplobel.fed.be

A taste of politics

As of 1st January 2019, Belgium sits on the **UN Security Council** for a period of two years. It offers the opportunity to our country to formulate guidelines on behalf of the international community, in response to international peace and security issues. A great honor for our country!

Since the resignation of Prime Minister Michel, the **Belgian government can only deal with current affairs**. It means that initiatives that were started can be completed but new policy decisions or substantial spending are no longer allowed. In principle, the **federal elections** will take place as scheduled on May 26, 2019. Belgians registered in Canada will have to vote. For your convenience, we have summarized the different procedures available in the consular news section, below.

2018 was a **top year** as far as **political contacts between Belgium and Canada** are concerned. There was the State Visit of Their Majesties the King and the Queen in March as well as various meetings between the Prime Ministers Trudeau and Michel at international meetings (NATO and UN). But there were also regular exchanges at a more local level. Recently, regional Ministers Céline Fremault (Brussels Region) and Jean-Luc Crucke (Walloon Region) visited Québec/Montréal relating to cooperation in the field of autism and climate change/energy respectively. And at the end of January, the mayor of Kortrijk, Vincent Van Quickenborne, brings a delegation of the innovative Hogeschool Howest to Montreal in connection with the creation of a Master in Gaming Design.

Consular news



Federal and European elections 2019: compatriots living in Canada and registered with the Consulate General in Montréal, can vote in different ways: in person or by proxy in Belgium, in person or by proxy in the Belgian Consulate General in Montréal or by correspondence. Please fill out the registration form in [Dutch](#) or [French](#) and, if needed, the proxy form (in [Dutch](#) or [French](#)) and return it to montreal@diplobel.fed.be

Attention: the deadline for registration as a voter is 31 January 2019! Please keep in mind that voting is mandatory. For further questions, please [contact](#) the Consulate-general.

Not only to vote but also to obtain certain documents and to stay informed in general, it is important that we have your correct **contact details**. Therefore, please pass on any changes to the Consulate General. Also, informing us of a change of address within Canada or of email is highly appreciated, via <https://canada.diplomatie.belgium.be/en/consular-services/change-address>

Passport applications: the Consulate General will visit specific regions with a so-called “mobile kit” allowing you to apply for a passport without having to travel to Montreal. For example, on March 11, 2019, for example, the mobile kit will come to Halifax. For more information, [follow this link](#) From April to June, mobile kit missions are planned to Vancouver, Calgary and Toronto. The dates will be communicated to you in due time.

Some economic figures



Congratulations to our entrepreneurs: **trade** between Belgium and Canada boosted in 2018. Our exports to Canada increased by as much as 38% in the first nine months of last year. Also 2017 was a good year: +34%. Belgium is now the 6th largest supplier to Canada within the European Union. And as as Canadian exports to Europe are concerned, our country ranks 4th (after the UK, Germany and France). Total trade between Belgium and Canada amounts to more than 6 billion euros (CAD 9 billion) per year, with our country most likely generating a trade surplus over Canada in 2018, for the first time since 2012.

Our **5 Regional Economic and Trade Attachés** in Canada and their team continuously support our companies to further enhance that trade:

- From Montréal:
 - o Wallonia : Michel Bricteux, montreal@awex-wallonia.com, <http://www.wallonie-bruxelles.ca> , FB AWEx Monreal
 - o Flanders: Yves Lapere, montreal@fitagency.com
 - o Brussels: Gilles Brédas, montreal@hub.brussels
- From Toronto: Frank Murari, toronto@awex-wallonia.com
- From Vancouver: Bart Schobben, vancouver@hub.brussels

Culture ‘Made in Belgium’



Jazz and Brel, a surprising combination! The Belgian singer **David Linx** and the **Brussels Jazz Orchestra** join forces to put the classics of our Grand Jacques on jazzy notes. Performances on **February 7** in the city of Quebec (www.palaismontcalm.ca) and on **February 8** in Victoriaville, Québec (www.lapiecemanquante.org).

Do you rather fancy romantic classical music? Then don't miss the concert of the famous **Brussels Philharmonic Orchestra** on **March 9** at the National Art Center (NAC) in Ottawa. www.nac-cna.ca Another date to remember for classical music lovers: concerts on **January 22 and 23** in the Bourgie hall of the Musée des Beaux-Arts in Montréal, a partnership between the **Music Chapel Queen Elisabeth** and Arte Musica in Montreal with (www.mbam.qc.ca).

For the kids (children up to 12 years old), NAC of Ottawa organizes the musical **Big Bang Festival** on **February 17 and 18**. It is a heart-warming initiative of the **Belgian Zonzo Compagnie**, which also brings cool Miles Davis music. www.nac-cna.ca

Culture and education are focal points of the Representation of the French Community of Belgium - **Wallonie Bruxelles International** - in Quebec, headed by Benoit Rutten. Visit the website of WBI Québec (www.wallonie-bruxelles.ca) for an overview of upcoming initiatives and, for example, a very informative dossier on study opportunities in Belgium. Academic cooperation between Belgium and Canada is clearly on the rise. We will give an update in the next Newsflash.

Until February 23 you can admire in the Gallerie Ellen (Université Concordia, Montréal) an



exp[osition of the artist **Vincent Meessen** who represented our country at the Venice Biennale in 2015. See the WBI website for more details.

Finally, a treat for the food lovers among you: the **Belgian Chef Alexandre Dionisio** (with Michelin star) from the Brussels restaurant "Villa in the sky" is taking part in the winter festival "**Montréal en Lumière**" at the restaurant "la Chronique" from fellow Belgian Marc De Canck. The 20th edition of the festival runs from **February 21 to March 3, 2019**.

Belgian associations and clubs active in Canada



There are many Belgian associations in Canada offering interesting activities. Thank you to all the volunteers who make it happen. Hereafter, you will find a list of associations and clubs known to us:

Belgian associations/social clubs:

- The brand new **Belgian Club Ottawa** (BCO) meets on **january 21, 2019** in Craft Beer Market at Lansdowne from 5.30 onwards to drink a fresh pint of beer on the New Year. Everybody is welcome! belgianclubottawa@gmail.com
- **Belgian Club Winnipeg**, Manitoba <http://belgianclub.ca/> belgianclub@mts.net
- **Canadian Belgian-Dutch Club, Wallaceburg** <https://www.canadianbelgiandutchclub.com/>
- **Canadian Association for the Advancement of Netherlandic Studies** (CAANS) <https://caans-acaen.ca/>
- **Fondation Roi Baudouin** <https://www.kbfcanada.ca> benoit@kbfcanada.ca
- **La Société Belge de bienfaisance** <http://www.lasbb.com/> lasbb@hotmail.ca
- **The Belgian Canadian Association of British Columbia** <https://bcabc.jimdo.com/>
- **Vlaamse Kring Calgary (VKC):** <https://vlaamsekringcalgary.wordpress.com>
vlaamsekringcalgary@hotmail.com
- **Vlamingen in de Wereld**. For the representatives close to you, please consult <https://www.viw.be/nl/landenfiche/canada>
- **Union Francophone des Belges à l'étranger** <http://www.ufbe.be/> jgrens@sciencetech.com
- **FB groups:** Belgian Club Ottawa, Belgians in Toronto, Belgians in Toronto Area, Canadian Belgian-Dutch Club Wallaceburg, Les Belges aux Canada, Belges à Montreal/Belgen in Montréal/Belgier in Montréal, La Société Belge de bienfaisance, Les Belges de Québec, Les petits Belges de Montréal, Vlamingen in Calgary

Belgian business associations:

- The **Belgian Canadian Business Chamber (Toronto)** organises on **January 24** a *Welcome to 2019! Fine Wine & Food Tasting* with special guest Kathleen Billen, author of *.be our guest - the ambassadors of Belgian hospitality*. <http://www.belgiumconnect.com/> info@belgiumconnect.com. Also on FB.
- **Cercle d'Affaires Belgique-Québec (Montréal)** www.cabq.ca info@cabq.ca Also on FB.
- **Canada-Belgium Committee** christophe.sepulchre@cfssecurity.com

If our information is incomplete, please let us know!

Did you know...



The Belgian team (men) **field hockey** is world champion! Put the Red Lions on ice and they might even beat Canada ☺!

The Belgian Pascal Miche living in Quebec City (Baie-Saint-Paul) makes delicious **wine** from **tomatoes**! A world first based on a well-preserved family recipe of his great-grandparents. www.omerto.com

Miscellaneous: Job offer

The Embassy of Belgium in Ottawa is looking for a great multilingual colleague with a heart for Belgium. The job description and further details are attached.

If you also have a vacancy and you are looking for talented Belgians, please let us know and we will be happy to include it in the next newsflash.



If you answer to the following question correctly, you may win a beautiful book about Belgium: a compatriot has been promoting art and culture in Canada for years, and has even created an emblematic exhibition space in the center of Montréal 5 years ago named "1700 La Poste". Who are we talking about? Your answer should be sent to Ottawa@diplobel.be by **February 15**.

Protection of personal data

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