

JUNE 2023, ISSUE 1

Ireland Canada Chamber of Commerce



Year in Review



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President's Remarks

Paul Dunne - President, ICCC Montreal

This is my final newsletter as President and we did a lot in the two years I was in office. I can take little credit because the success of the chamber depends not so much on what I did but rather the combined efforts of a very strong board. I'm not really leaving because I will continue to serve the board as long as the membership will tolerate my presence and there's still a lot of work left to do. Two major projects dominated the last six months and will continue to define our future work as we transition to a new board Year:

Expansion of our Network

Our influence spreads beyond our organization to the partnerships we nurture with Canadian, Quebec and Irish government agencies as well as business organizations like ours. This wider network helps us expand our reach to hundreds of others inside and outside the Irish community with a common interest in our mission. (cont. pg. 2)

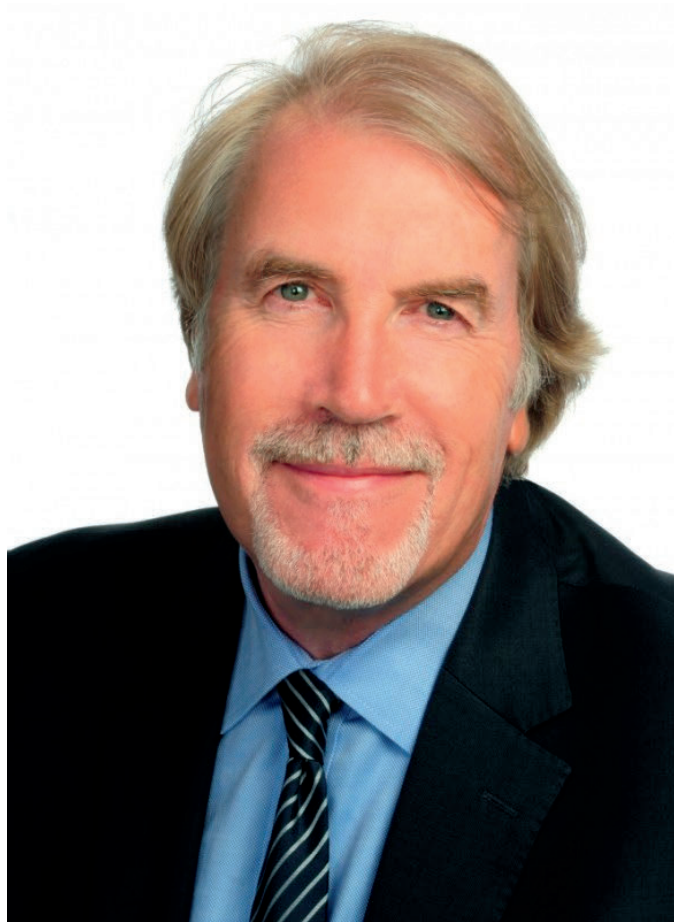
President's Remarks (cont.)

An Irish Consulate in Montreal

The Irish government opened new diplomatic missions in the cities of Toronto and Vancouver in recent years but has so far neglected to open one in Montreal to serve Canada's second largest city and metropole of the Province of Quebec. The chamber is leading the charge for the establishment of a full consulate in Montreal and the energy of the board is focussed on making it happen.

We bid a sad goodbye to James Fitzgerald who played a critical role as director of communications over the last few years. He will be sorely missed. In addition to James, I was privileged to serve alongside a formidable team of volunteers during the last two years whose accomplishments for just the first half of 2023 we proudly celebrate below.

Here are the highlights of our recent work:



We were addressed by Neale Richmond TD, Irish Minister of State in the Department of Enterprise Trade and Employment, on the topic of Irish Unity. The virtual presentation was jointly sponsored by ourselves and the Ireland Canada Business Council. The topic of Irish Unity is much more complex than it may seem at first sight and even among those in favour of the project, there are starkly opposing views on how it would be implemented in practice.

[Accessible on YouTube.](#)

Listen again. Fascinating topic!

MARCH 6
“IRISH UNITY”
NEALE RICHMOND TD

We published an Op-Ed in Montreal's La Presse one of Canada's largest newspapers by circulation. The title of the article was "On Saint Patrick's Day, all of Quebec is Irish" and the content covered the close cultural business links between Quebec and Ireland.

You can read the article online [in the "News and Blogs" section of our website.](#)

MARCH 17

LA PRESSE OP-ED

"Le 17 mars tout le Québec est irlandais »

OPINIONS

Fête de la Saint-Patrick

Le 17 mars, tout le Québec est irlandais



PHOTO ROBERT SKINNER, ARCHIVES LA PRESSE
Défilé de la Saint-Patrick à Montréal le 16 mars 2019

Alors que nous nous dirigeons vers ce que nous espérons être bientôt la fin de l'hiver, une fête préférée est de nouveau là pour nous remonter le moral, quel que soit le temps : la Saint-Patrick. C'est la période de l'année où boire de la bière noire en pleine journée et marcher au milieu de la rue Sainte-Catherine ne sont pas seulement



Vice President Michelle Sullivan represented ICCC at the Global Irish Civic Forum held at Dublin Castle in April.

This initiative of the Department of Foreign Affairs gathered members of the Irish diaspora together to discuss issues of common concern. Representation in Seanad Éireann and participation in the Presidential election were raised by delegates present, while we leveraged the opportunity to lobby for a Montreal consulate both publicly as well as privately with Sean Fleming TD, Minister of State for International Development and Diaspora and DFA officials.

APRIL 20-21

GLOBAL IRISH CIVIC FORUM

IN DUBLIN

This virtual event was sponsored by the chamber and IDA Ireland – the agency tasked with attracting investors to Ireland. It was organized and hosted by La Chambre de Commerce de Montreal Metropolitain and attracted in excess of 70 registrants. Guests who represented investors in Ireland made presentations on the advantages of investing in Ireland and the pitfalls for the unprepared.

The full event has been recorded and [can be accessed on the “Past Events” section of our website.](#)

APRIL 24

“IRELAND – YOUR GATEWAY TO EUROPE”



Ireland: Your Gateway to Europe Overview for:



Mark Shorten
Vice President for Financial Services and Life Sciences

mark.shorten@ida.ie

IDA Ireland, 1 University Ave,
Toronto, ON M5J 2P1



Ireland. We make it **happen.**



We organised this event in collaboration with Invest Northern Ireland whose Canadian country manager, Michael Barton was also in attendance. Mairead Lavery is President and CEO of Export Development Canada, a past member of our chamber and a great supporter of the Irish community. We had a too-short but fascinating Q&A with her on the state of the Canadian and global economies with special insight into the political and economic challenges facing Northern Ireland.

The full interview and discussion is [available on the “Past Events” section of our website.](#)

MAY 4 FIRESIDE CHAT WITH MAIREAD LAVERY

Past-President, Vivian Doyle-Kelly represented the chamber at a presentation to the joint houses of parliament in Dublin. The presentation was on the theme of Ireland's Trade Relationship with Canada. The chamber concentrated most of its presentation on a plea for support of a full-time General Consulate in Montreal.

A recording of the event is [available on the "Past Events" section of our website.](#)

JUNE 20 PRESENTATION TO OIREACHTAS COMMITTEE, DUBLIN



Paul Dunne (President)
Michelle Sullivan (Vice President)
Padraig McLean (Treasurer)
Siobhan Mullan (Secretary)
Conor Barry (Immediate Past President)
Carol McCormick
Vivian Doyle-Kelly
James Fitzgerald
Mark Gallagher
Ruth Hanna
Paul Loftus (Co-founder)
Katrina Montgomery
Sean Murphy
CT Moore

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TWITTER: [@iccc_mtl](https://twitter.com/iccc_mtl)

LINKEDIN: [company/icccmtl](https://www.linkedin.com/company/icccmtl)

EMAIL: office@icccmtl.com

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Corporate \$420

Individual \$42

2022-2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS THANK YOU!

USEFUL INFORMATION