

JUNE 2024, ISSUE 1

Ireland Canada Chamber of Commerce



Year To Date 2024



President's Remarks

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Ruth Hanna - President, ICCC Montreal

We had a busy start to the year that has laid the table for an even busier second half. We maintained the Ireland-Canada Chamber of Commerce as a go-to resource for Quebec-Ireland business; held two in-person events; saw growing Montreal-Ireland momentum; and had our mandate strengthened with a 19% year-over-year increase in individual members and a 30% year-over-year increase in corporates. In addition, we progressed the following two topics that will remain baseline projects in the new board year:

Advocacy for an Irish Consulate in Montreal

The ICCC posits that Montreal merits an Irish consular post due to a unique combination of economic and societal factors. These include the size of the Quebec economy and of its relative population; Ireland-Quebec economic (cont. pg. 2)

President's Remarks (cont.)

sector similarities and cultural affinities; Quebec's considerable devolved powers (more than Scotland's); and persistent Irish official underrepresentation in Quebec, which results in the Ireland investment case and Irish businesses flying under the radar.

ICBA Report – The Ireland-Canada Economic

Opportunity: Building on the growing Ireland-Canada relationship, the Dublin-based Ireland-Canada Business Association (ICBA) commissioned Irish economist Jim Power to author a report that documents the growth in trade, and opportunities and trade between Ireland and Canada. Given the high level of interest generated by the report, Jim Power visited Canada in December, attending our Christmas reception and even a "Power Breakfast". Currently, we are investigating the potential to obtain a Quebec-Ireland iteration of the report and will update when more information is available.

Read the report online at irelandcanada.com/resources.



HIGHLIGHTS AND SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Meeting with Dr. Deirdre Giblin, chair of Dublin-based ICBA.

Topics discussed included the April 2024 Business Summit in Dublin, the ICC's interest in an Irish consulate in Montreal, and the need for the newly launched ICBC to collaborate closely with the ICBA.

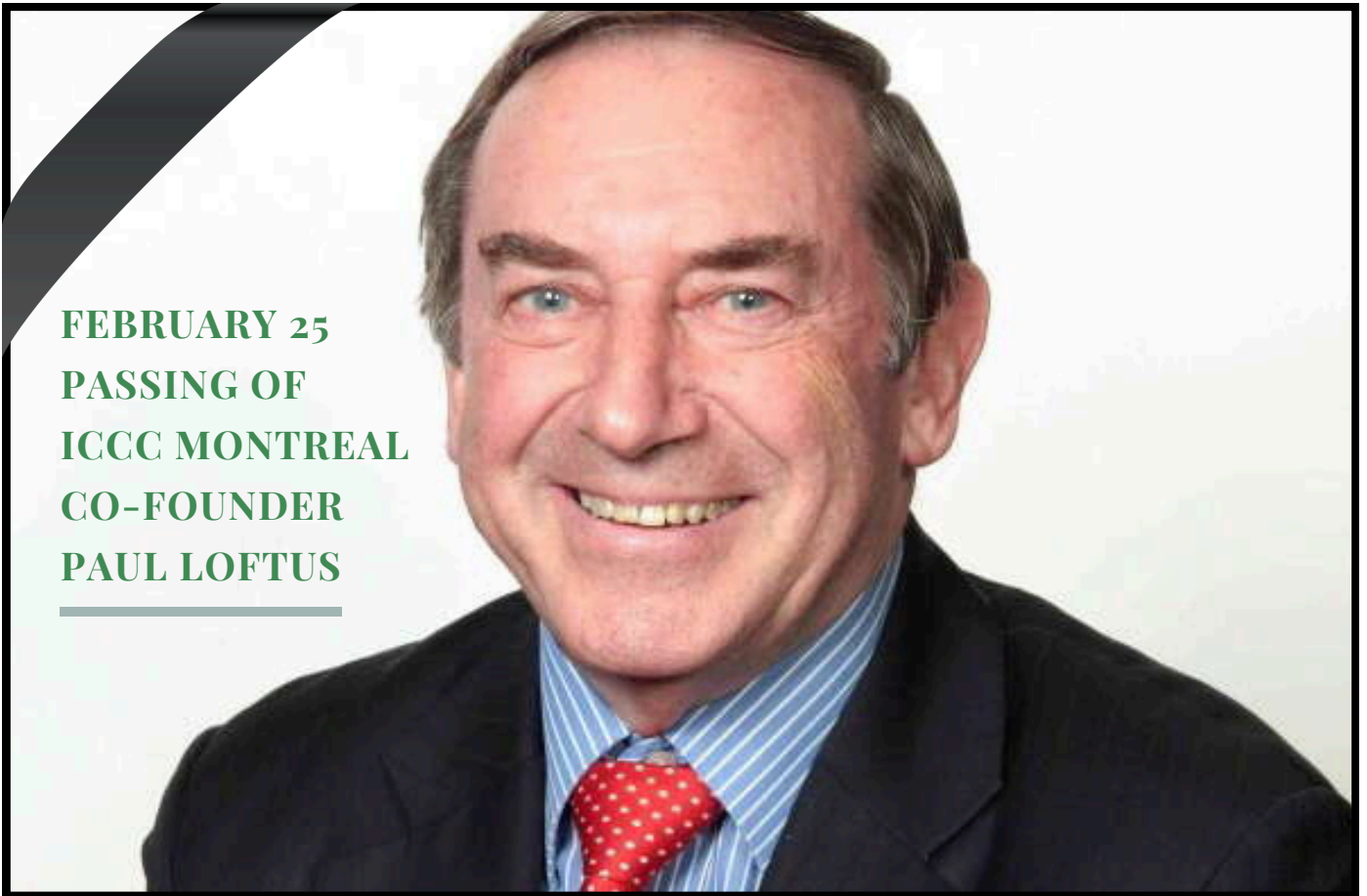
Meeting with David Costello of Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA)

This aim of the meeting was to discuss the ICC's advocacy for an Irish consulate in Montreal. This was an enlightening discussion that gave rise to many new points and included the dynamics of setting up new consulates.

**JANUARY - FEBRUARY
ICC'S UNOFFICIAL 'AMBASSADOR'
IN IRELAND PAUL DUNNE**



**FEBRUARY 25
PASSING OF
ICCC MONTREAL
CO-FOUNDER
PAUL LOFTUS**



**It was with great sadness that we received the news of the passing
of our Chamber's co-founder Paul Loftus.**

Paul stewarded the Chamber for 13 years between 1998 and 2012 and drove its transition from a locally focused entity to becoming a go-to platform for Montreal-Irish business. Maintaining the Chamber in Montreal in the years following the 1995 sovereignty vote was difficult due to lack of public sponsors, no Irish government presence, and the then dearth of Quebec-Irish companies. Despite this, Paul was tireless in his dedication to keeping the Chamber relevant, building alliances with European chambers of commerce, and government and trade bodies in Ireland and Quebec alike. That the Chamber is thriving today is testament to his vision, energy, and honed networking skills which he lent fully to benefit both the auld sod and his new terre d'accueil.

We invite you to join us in a special tribute to Paul by emailing us photos or memories so that we can compile and present a bound copy to Paul's family on behalf of the chamber. Please mail your memories to office@icccmtl.com.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam

We published an op-ed in Montreal Gazette, the oldest newspaper in North America. The title of the article was “Opinion: The case for an Irish consulate in Montreal” and the content covered the Chamber’s ongoing advocacy for an Irish consulate in Montreal to provide essential services to Irish and Quebecers and to serve as a tailwind for trade and economic relations between Quebec and Ireland.

As a result of the op-ed, we received letters of support from Montrealers and carried out an interview with CJAD 800 that was aired on March 17 before Montreal’s 199th St. Patrick’s Day Parade.

You can read the article online in the “News and Blogs” section of our website at icccmtl.com/news-and-blogs/.

MARCH 14

MONTREAL GAZETTE OP-ED

Opinion: The Case for an Irish Consulate in Montreal



The Gazette



Opinion / Local News

Opinion: The case for an Irish consulate in Montreal

It would cement the economic and cultural relationship that has existed between Ireland and Quebec for centuries.

Ruth Hanna and Vivian Doyle-Kelly • Special to Montreal Gazette

Published Mar 14, 2024 • Last updated Mar 14, 2024 • 3 minute read

23 Comments



A shamrock graces the terminal at Trudeau International Airport in Dorval in 2021. “An Irish consulate in Montreal would serve as a tailwind for trade and economic relations between Quebec and Irish businesses,” write Ruth Hanna and Vivian Doyle-Kelly. PHOTO BY JOHN MAHONEY /Montreal Gazette

Montrealers may notice the Irish flag flying even more proudly than usual next to the shamrock of the City of Montreal’s flag this Saint Patrick’s week: Ireland’s deputy prime minister is in town.

This prestigious reception event was co-organised by Enterprise Ireland, Invest Québec and IDA Ireland – with Micheál Martin, Tánaiste of Ireland as guest of honour. Guests included leaders of the Montreal-Irish business community, Quebec dignitaries and investors in Ireland, members of the ICCC, and members of the Irish community. Speeches celebrated the close business and cultural ties between both regions, and two Irish companies presented on their journey leading to their investment in Quebec.

Before the event began, the president and vice-president of the Chamber were privileged to have a short conversation with An Tánaiste to present their case for an Irish consulate in Montreal.

Photos can be accessed on the “Past Events” section of our website at icccmtl.com/past-events/.

MARCH 14

IRELAND QUEBEC BUSINESS

**LEADERS’ St. PATRICK’S RECEPTION
with An Tánaiste Micheál Martin**

After a hiatus, we brought back an oldie but goodie casual networking event- a pub quiz emceed by our very own board member Séan Murphy. Teams endured six stiff general knowledge and trivia sections for the honour of the Brian McKeown Memorial Trophy and top 3 prizes donated by both the Chamber and Hurley's. Despite a play-off, "Knives Out" and "Dixie Chix" tied for first position.

Our thanks to Séan for his stellar animation, and we look forward to better scores and worse weather for the autumn edition. Full pictures of the event are available on the "Past Events" section of our website at icccmtl.com/past-events/.

MAY 30 PUB QUIZ



In view of his ending mandate, we spearheaded a June 2024 appreciation evening for Ambassador Eamonn McKee on behalf of the Montreal-Irish community. Although he became Ambassador of Ireland to Canada in October 2020, Eamonn McKee was no stranger or virtual ambassador to Montreal. In addition to his many visits, the Chamber will remember him for highlighting the need for an Irish consulate in Montreal and for his deepening of the historical ties between Ireland and Quebec. His legacy is reflected in the funding obtained by the Montreal Irish Monument Park Foundation and in the newly launched Global Irish Famine Way. The latter is a heritage trail that marks the passage of Irish famine emigrants, backstopped by pairs of bronze shoes cast from original shoes left behind by 19th century emigrants.

JUNE 26 AMBASSADOR MCKEE APPRECIATION SOIRÉE WITH BRONZE SHOES

Outgoing Board Appreciation

We are deeply grateful for our volunteer board which is responsible for stewarding ICC's success.

Sadly, all good things come to an end, and in June, we bid farewell to five board directors:

Padraig McLean,
Katrina Montgomery,
CT Moore,
Siobhan Mullan,
and Michelle Sullivan.



Padraig McLean joined us in 2019, spending more than half of his five-year tenure during the pandemic. During the 2022-2023 year, he lent his financial skills to serve as our treasurer.

A strong believer in community service, Padraig was a rigorous contributor to the chamber and rarely missed a meeting.

We thank him for his dedication in guiding the growth of the Chamber and wish him the best in his future endeavours.

PADRAIG MCLEAN
PAST TREASURER

Real estate broker Katrina Montgomery joined the ICCC board in 2022. During her stint at the ICCC, Katrina was a keen team player, supporting the Chamber on multiple projects and in event management in particular.

We thank Katrina for her support and commitment to the Chamber, and wish her every continued success in the future.

KATRINA MONTGOMERY



CT Moore is a digital marketing specialist who became an ICCC board member in 2022. During his 2-year tenure, he oversaw website upgrades, automated membership onboarding and renewals and streamlined membership management and communications.

We particularly appreciated CT's creativity, his can-do attitude, excellent communication skills, and technical savvy. Any board would be lucky to have him.

CHRIS MOORE

Lawyer Siobhan Mullan joined the board in 2021 as board secretary, a position she held until June 2024. During her three-year term, Siobhan was ICCC's legal custodian, serving as a conduit for internal communication by providing timely notice of meetings and distribution of material and ensuring all filing deadlines were respected. Siobhan used her expertise and efficient management of ICCC records to advise the board on governance topics, and amendments to bylaws that assisted ICCC in fulfilling its fiduciary duties.

We thank Siobhan for maintaining ICCC's smooth running and know she will be a key contributor to her next board's success.

SIOBHAN MULLAN **SECRETARY**



Michelle Sullivan joined the board in 2020, serving as vice-president from 2022-2023. She co-managed communications for 2 years, and has acted as director of communications over the past year.

Among her many achievements, Michelle represented the Chamber at the 2023 Global Irish Civic Forum, oversaw the revamp of the ICCC website, launched ICCC's social media presence, delivered several newsletters, contributed to the success of the ICCC's 30th anniversary celebrations and penned the 2024 Montreal Gazette Op-Ed.

Michelle elevated the ICCC's standing through her social media mastery, her public relations know-how and her extensive contact book which she leveraged to the benefit of the Chamber. We thank Michelle for her invaluable contribution.

MICHELLE SULLIVAN **PAST VICE-PRESIDENT** **COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR**

New Board Nominees

As we continue to refresh the Board, we are pleased to nominate five new directors in 2024 who bring legal, digital communications, IT, and business expertise.

Anne Barry joins fellow nominees Connor Munro, Piaras McCorry, Niall Crotty and Lynda Premerl.



Connor Munro is an associate lawyer at Blake, Cassels & Graydon. He brings with him seven years of legal experience, covering corporate and commercial law including transactions, public and private M&A, and general corporate matters. As a law student, he was seconded to the legal department of companies in the financial services, renewable energies and real estate industries.

Connor holds a commercial law degree (summa cum laude) from Université de Montréal (Dean's Honour List) and an MSc, Law and Finance from University of Oxford (Distinction). He has been a member of the Barreau du Québec since 2022.



Piaras McCorry is a seasoned digital marketer with a diverse international background, having lived in Ireland, England, Australia, and Canada. His expertise spans SEO, social media marketing, email marketing, and content creation, particularly within the electronics sector. Currently serving as the Marketing Manager for LeddarTech, a Quebec-based automotive software provider, Piaras oversees all aspects of marketing, including digital strategy development, video production, event management, content creation, and social media. He holds a law degree from London Metropolitan University.



Niall Crotty has over 30 years of experience in global, multi-organizational IT and telecom environments. Most of his career was spent at Ericsson, where he was most recently senior product and business manager. Subsequently, he was principal product manager for Carence, a technology provider of next-generation in-car computing platforms, where he supported development of voice-enabled applications used by major car manufacturers and component makers. Niall holds a Bachelor of Engineering from University College Cork.



Lynda Premerl's career includes 30 years within the telecom and IS/IT industries, 25 years of which with Bell Canada. She also held various management training positions with Renior and Abilis Solutions, Montreal-based software developers. Lynda transitioned to executive administrative positions for Profusion Immobilier (real estate) and GATX Rail Canada (rail transport), among others. We are delighted to highlight that this is Lynda's second nomination as an ICCC board member, having previously served between 2018 and 2020.

2023-2024
IRELAND CANADA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE -
MONTREAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS
THANK YOU!

Ruth Hanna (President) Vivian-Doyle Kelly (Vice-President) Paul Dunne (Treasurer)

Siobhan Mullan (Secretary) Conor Barry Paul Brogan Mark Gallagher

Paul Loftus (Co-founder) Carol McCormick Padraig McLean Katrina Montgomery

Chris Moore Séan Murphy Michelle Sullivan



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Individual \$42
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