



# Consulate General of Ireland

## Newsletter for British Columbia

July 2019

Volume 1

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#### Mailing list

 [dfa.ie/Vancouver](http://dfa.ie/Vancouver)

 [@IrInVancouver](https://twitter.com/IrInVancouver)

 [/IRLinVancouver](https://www.facebook.com/IrInVancouver)

### A message from the Consul General

A Chairde,

On behalf of Vice Consul General Jennifer Bourke and myself, welcome to the first Newsletter from the Consulate General of Ireland in Vancouver.

As you know, the Consulate opened its doors almost nine months ago and in that time, we have been busy strengthening the bilateral relationship between British Columbia and Ireland, developing new and existing trade links, and engaging with and supporting the Irish Community in BC. Since October 2018, we have attended over two hundred and seventy meetings, seminars, and receptions, and hosted twenty-five of our own events including the visit of Minister Ciarán Cannon T.D. during the St. Patrick's Day period this year.

I would like to acknowledge the great support that the Irish community in British Columbia has shown for the Consulate since our establishment. Your engagement and kind assistance over the last nine months has been essential to our success. I would also like to acknowledge the excellent work of our team here at the Consulate, specifically Krystel Aquino and Katherine Kiss.

One of our biggest challenges is communication - reaching out to the large Irish community here in BC. With this in mind I would ask you to please encourage your friends, family and colleagues to engage with us by signing up to our mailing list and following us on Facebook and Twitter. You can find the links in the sidebar.

Wishing you all a very pleasant summer and looking forward to seeing you at our events very soon.

Beir bua is beannacht,

*Frank Flood*

Consul General  
Consulate General of Ireland, Vancouver

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## Staff Changes

In May we said goodbye to Deputy Consul General Luke Hanlon who returned to Ireland after his assignment here was finished. In the six months that Luke was here, he was absolutely instrumental in every aspect of the Consulate's set-up and we extend our sincerest thanks to him for his hard work and input. We also welcomed Vice Consul General Jennifer Bourke and her partner Theeradech Thongsumrit to Vancouver. Jennifer came here straight from her assignment at the Embassy of Ireland in Bangkok, Thailand, where she was the Deputy Head of Mission for almost three years. She is delighted to be in Canada and is looking forward to working closely with the Irish Community in BC in the coming years.

During the summer months, we will be taking time to catch up on administration, deal with consular issues, continue to work on establishing our permanent offices and plan for rest of the year. Keep reading for a look at our upcoming events!

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## Irish Community Survey

The Government of Ireland recently launched a series of consultations regarding a new [Diaspora Engagement Policy](#) which will be introduced in 2020. In order to reach the maximum number of Irish diaspora possible in Canada, and to allow all members of the Irish community an opportunity to express their views, the Embassy of Ireland in Ottawa has created a survey. We would be very grateful if you could complete this survey and then share it with your Irish Community contacts in Canada. [Take the survey here.](#)

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## Join us for Pride!



The Consulate will be hosting a **Pride reception** for the Irish LGBT+ Community on Thursday 1 August. Click on the Rainbow Shamrock to register!

On Sunday 4 August Consulate staff and families will march in the Vancouver Pride Parade as part of the Official BC Consular Corps delegation. We encourage the Irish Community and Friends of the Consulate to please come out and show your support for the Parade and the LGBT+ Community in Vancouver.

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## New Business Breakfast Series

We are delighted to announce that the Consulate will be launching our **First Thursday Business Breakfast Series** in September. On the first Thursday of every

month the Consulate will host a networking breakfast with a business focus. Our first speaker on Thursday 5 September will be Keith Martin, Partner at McKinsey & Company and Chairperson of the Ireland Canada Chamber of Commerce, Vancouver branch. First Thursday Breakfasts are open to the public and will be of interest to Irish business people and professionals working in British Columbia, and anyone who is interested in strengthening business and trade connections with Ireland. We will ask you to register your attendance in advance, so please keep an eye on our [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [website](#) for further details in the coming weeks.

## Irish Language Weekend

The Consulate is supporting **Vancouver Irish Language Weekend** on 4/5/6 October. The weekend will include Irish language classes and workshops taught by fluent and experience teachers from Ireland. You can see the programme and purchase tickets at the link below.



**DEIREADH SEACHTAINE GAEILGE**  
**VANCOUVER**  
**IRISH LANGUAGE WEEKEND**

*An Ghaeltacht*

Immerse yourself in Irish language and culture for a weekend in Vancouver!

**4-6 OCTOBER 2019**

<b>3 LEIBHÉAL (FÁILTE ROIMH GACH DUINE)</b>	<b>3 LEVELS (ALL WELCOME)</b>
<b>MÚINTEOIRÍ LÍOFA AS ÉIRINN</b>	<b>FLUENT TEACHERS FROM IRELAND</b>
<b>TÁILLE: \$160 (CAD)</b> (RANGANNA, ÁBHAR TEAGAISC, GNIOMHAÍOCHTAÍ, DINŊEAR AR AN SATHARN, FAILTÍU AR AN AOINE, SRL.)	<b>FEE: \$160 (CAD)</b> (CLASSES, TEACHING MATERIALS, ACTIVITIES, SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER, FRIDAY RECEPTION, ETC.)

INFO & TICKETS:  
**[HTTP://BIT.LY/IRISHVANCOUVER](http://bit.ly/irishvancouver)**

LE CUIDIÚ Ó | WITH SUPPORT FROM:

Ard-Chonsalacht na hÉireann | Vancouver  
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Consulat général d'Irlande | Vancouver

Oideas Gael