



Spring is in the air! This new season is the perfect time to go out, make new friends and start new projects! In this spring edition of BelgiumInCanada Newsflash, you will find a sample of what is happening within the Belgian-Canadian community in the coming months.

Of course, you can also consult the FB & Twitter of the Embassy in Ottawa and the Consulate General in Montreal for more information on past and upcoming events. We also invite you to visit the webpages of the many Belgian associations, business clubs and Facebook groups in Canada. Some of their events are highlighted in this Newsflash. Your suggestions and comments are always welcome. Enjoy!

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### You are cordially invited: TORONTO – VANCOUVER - QUEBEC

- ◇ On March 26 and 27, **Ambassador Johan Verkammen and his wife Kathleen** will be in Toronto - they will offer a drink to the Belgians attending the **Belgian Canadian Business Chamber's "Frites Night" - March 26 from 6 pm to 9 pm at Prenup Pub, 191 College St, Toronto**. Info on [belgiumconnect.com](http://belgiumconnect.com). Make sure to sign up via [info@belgiumconnect.com](mailto:info@belgiumconnect.com)
- ◇ The week of April 8, **Ambassador Johan Verkammen and his wife Kathleen** will be in Vancouver and Victoria. They would be delighted to meet and greet **the Belgians and therefore invite them for a drink and a chat on April 10 from 6 pm to 8 pm at Musette Caffè, 1325 Burrard Street in Vancouver**. This is organized with the kind assistance of the Belgian-Canadian Association of British Columbia and Monique Poncelet, Honorary Consul. If you plan to attend, please send a message to BCABC via FB or to [events.ottawa@diplobel.fed.be](mailto:events.ottawa@diplobel.fed.be) .
- ◇ On **Thursday, April 11** the **Cercle d’Affaires Belgique-Québec (CABQ)** will hold its **5 @ 7 monthly gathering at Belga, Grande Allée, Quebec City**. **Consul General Hubert Roisin** will also be present.

### CONSULAR news

- ◇ The Consulate General organizes a **mobile kit mission for passports in Vancouver on 29 and 30 April 2019** and on **2 and 3 May 2019 in Calgary**. Please follow this link for more information.
- ◇ **On May 26, Belgians go to the polls for regional, federal and European elections**. The latter two are also organized for Belgians abroad - registrations closed on 31 January. Around the world, nearly 180,000 Belgians living abroad have registered, including 4,146 in Canada. Those who decided to vote in person at the Consulate General of Montreal will have to present themselves on Wednesday, May 22 between 1 pm and 8 pm (further details will follow).

### CULTURE with a Belgian touch

- ◇ **Exhibition - March 8 to April 21, INTERPLAYS, Sixty Six Studio, 858 Bank Street, Suite 101 Ottawa, from 12am to 18pm**. Our compatriot Laurence Finet exhibits on the theme of human perception. Her poetic paintings interrelate with technological progress. [studiosixtysix.ca](http://studiosixtysix.ca)
- ◇ The **37<sup>th</sup> Festival International du Film sur l’Art (FIFA)**, which is held in Montreal from **18 to 31 March**, présente more than 30 Belgian films this year. A real treat ! [www.artfifa.com/fr](http://www.artfifa.com/fr)
- ◇ **Exhibition - March 21 to June 22, 1700 La Poste, 1700 Notre-Dame St, Montreal**: the Belgian Isabelle de Mévius, recently decorated Officer of the Order of the Crown, presents works by the great Quebec ceramist Jean-Pierre Larocque. [1700laposte.com](http://1700laposte.com)
- ◇ **Book presentation of "My journey from Saigon to Ottawa" - March 24 at McNabb Community Centre, 180 Percy Street, Ottawa from 1.30 pm to 4.30 pm**: in her latest book, Alice Swann tells us about

her life as a student in Belgium, before moving to Canada. The presentation will be followed by a reception. [ottawavietcancentre@gmail.com](mailto:ottawavietcancentre@gmail.com)

- ◇ **Film followed by a reception - March 28, Saint-Paul University Amphitheatre, 223 Main Street, Ottawa (Guigues Building) at 6.30 pm:** In the week of the Francophonie, the Belgian and Swiss embassies invite you view the movie "Le vent tourney (a Belgian-French-Swiss production), followed by a reception with touches from Belgium and Switzerland. Free admission.
- ◇ **Exhibition - March 30 to April 28, Canadian Sculpture Centre, The Distillery, 39 Parliament Street Toronto – opening reception on 30 March from 2pm to 5 pm:** Our compatriot Angela Verlaeck Clark presents a grand sculpture to the Toronto public. Info on [sculptorssocietyofcanada.org](http://sculptorssocietyofcanada.org)
- ◇ **Book conference - April 10 in Québec and April 11 in Montreal, BANQ :** Belgian author Jean-Marc Turine, winner of the *Prix des 5 continents* about his novel "*Le Théo des fleuves*".
- ◇ **Soiree des amis du Theatre l'Instant - April 16 from 6 pm till 9 pm, Frite Alors !, 128 Fleury, Montreal :** the Belgian André-Marie Coudou organises a fundraising event under the patronage of the Consul General. [theatreinstant.com](http://theatreinstant.com)
- ◇ **Theater - April 25 to 27, L'Usine C, 1345 Avenue Lalonde, Montréal:** The Belgian piece "Le signal du Promeneur" will be played for the first time in North America. [usine-c.com](http://usine-c.com)
- ◇ **Concerts – May 7 to 12, Gesu, 1200 de Bleury, Montréal:** Within the "Series of international partners" which puts Belgium in the spotlight this season, Le Vivier has a partnership with the Belgian festival Ars Musica and Forum des compositeurs de Wallonie, for a series of 11 concerts in Quebec. [www.legesu.com](http://www.legesu.com)
- ◇ **Concert – Friday May 10, Centre Bell, 1950 Rue Claude-Gagné, Laval :** The Brussels rapper Damso in concert. Almost soldout ! [www.evenko.ca](http://www.evenko.ca)
- ◇ **Beer tasting at the Ottawa Beer Fest - May 10, Aberdeen Pavillon, Lansdowne Park, Ottawa:** a panel of "International women of Influence", including Kathleen Billen, wife of Ambassador Johan Verkammen, will give scores to the beer scene in Ottawa. We have a reputation to defend as best beer country in the world! [www.ottawabeerfest.com](http://www.ottawabeerfest.com)
- ◇ **Festival TransAmériques – May 22 to June 4, 460 Rue Sainte-Catherine, Montreal :** several Belgian productions including "Kalakuta Republik" of Serge Aimé Coulibaly. <http://fta.ca>
- ◇ **Run - Saturday, May 25, OTTAWA RUN 5K, departure in front of the Fairmont Château Laurier Hotel in Ottawa at 4 pm:** Are you into sports? Interested to participate in this race? Perhaps we can form a "TeamBelgium". Contact us at [kath.billen@gmail.com](mailto:kath.billen@gmail.com). If enough interest, we will provide a special team T-shirt. [www.runottawa.ca](http://www.runottawa.ca)
- ◇ **European Union Family Day – Sunday, 26 May, a cultural tour of Europe, Lansdowne Park, Ottawa:** Experience Europe in the heart of Ottawa, at the magnificent horticultural building, and visit more than 20 country boots showcasing their cultural heritage. Belgium will also be represented and will amongst others propose a saxophone – a Belgian invention - performance by our compatriot **Noël Samyn!** More info on the day's program and activities for children will appear in a few weeks on the Embassy's FB and on the website of the EU Delegation in Ottawa.
- ◇ **Concert – Sunday June 16, Mtelus, 59, Sainte-Catherine Street E., Montréal :** The Brussels revelation of the past 12 months (cfr. infra), **Angèle**, is in concert in Canada !

### **Belgian ACADEMIC presence in Canada –tentative seminar**

- ◇ As mentioned in the previous Newsflash, academic cooperation between Belgium and Canada is on the rise. Many Belgians move to Canada to pursue an academic career or be a guest teacher. The Belgian Embassy would like to **bring this fantastic know-how together** and provide a forum to **share experience** through an **interactive seminar**. If you are interested or have suggestions, please let us know at [events.ottawa@diplobel.fed.be](mailto:events.ottawa@diplobel.fed.be). More information will follow if there is enough interest.
- ◇ The Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) organizes **Wallonia-Brussels Days** on **March 25 and 26**, including a conference entitled "Montréal-Brussels: Changing Cities", bringing together several experts including the famous Belgian climatologist, Prof. Jean-Pascal van Ypersele. [walloniebruxelles.uqam.ca](http://walloniebruxelles.uqam.ca)

## Belgian ARTISTS in Canada - exhibition for a good cause

There is a lot of artistic talent amongst Belgians in Canada! The Embassy would like to contribute to promoting this talent linked to a good cause. If there is enough interest, we could plan an exhibition this fall. The exhibition could for example be held in support of the **King Baudouin Foundation** (KBF), which has been very active in Canada since 2018 ([www.kbfcanada.ca](http://www.kbfcanada.ca)). Does this inspire you? Please contact us at [events@ottawa.diplobel.fed.be](mailto:events@ottawa.diplobel.fed.be) if you would like to donate an artwork. More information will follow.

## BELGIAN ASSOCIATIONS AND CUBS in Canada – some activities highlighted

### Belgian Canadian Business Chamber

- ◇ “Frites Night” (see above). Congratulations to Mr. Xavier Van Overmeire, Regional Head of the International Trade Group of Dentons LLP, for his appointment as President of the BCBC !

### Belgian Club Ottawa (BCO)

- ◇ "Belgian Monday" monthly gathering in Craft Beer Market in Lansdowne starting at 5.30 pm. Mark your agenda on April 1 and 6 May. Everybody is welcome!
- ◇ **Easter egg hunt** on April 21, from 2 pm to 5 pm at the residence of the Belgian Ambassador - more information and registration on the FB page or at [belgianclubottawa@gmail.com](mailto:belgianclubottawa@gmail.com) .
- ◇ **30 km bike tour of Ottawa** on Sunday, June 2 – we meet at Base Line Station, near Algonquin College at 10 am. More details will follow
- ◇ **Euro 2020 qualification match Belgium-Kazakhstan** – Saturday, June 8 at 2.45 pm. Details will follow.

### Cercle d’Affaires Belgique-Québec

- ◇ “Vin&Chocolat” on Monday March 25 from 6 pm to 9 pm at the Chocolate Academy, 4850, rue Molson, Montreal.

### La Société Belge de Bienfaisance

- ◇ **Lunch** on Sunday April 7, 12 pm to 3 pm, Cabane à Sucre à la Feuille d’Erable, 156 chemin du Sous-Bois, Mont-Saint-Grégoire

### Les Belges au Canada - Belgen in Canada – Belgians in Canada

- ◇ **Euro 2020 qualification soccer game Cyprus-Belgium** – Sunday, March 24 at 3.30 pm, at MVP Restaurant & Bar Sportif, 200 rue Ste Catherine est, Montreal.

### Les Belges de la Mauricie et du Centre-du-Quebec

- ◇ **Lunch** on Sunday, April 7 at 1 pm, Domaine du Sucrier 3400 Chemin du Lac, Saint-Boniface.

### The Belgian Canadian Association of British Columbia

- ◇ "Belgian Thursday" monthly gathering at Tap & Barrel, 8 Lonsdale Avenue, North Vancouver starting at 6 pm.

## Did you know ...

- ◇ On the occasion of International Women's Day held on March 8, we would like to put **some strong, trendsetting women who have left their mark on Belgium in the spotlight:**

**Adeline Dieudonné** - *La Vraie Vie* of this Brussels author was one of the literary heights of 2018. Between tragedy and comedy, poetry and brutality, this novel describes the daily life of a family subjected to a tyrannous and violent father. The female protagonist battles social and sexual determinism. For her feminist novel, Adeline Dieudonné received the *Prix Renaudot*, the *Prix du roman FNAC* and the *Prix Rossel*.

**Angèle** - A colorful personality, light but telling lyrics, a soft voice, a sense of humor and self-mockery, those are the weapons of singer Angèle. With her Album *Brol* that came out last November, she won a golden disc in Belgium. After her success at the *D6bels Music Awards*, the *MIA's* and *les Victoires de la Musique*, Angèle was also proclaimed Brussels personality of 2018. With more than 1 million followers on Instagram, the young singer has become the idol of a generation.

**Angelique van Ombergen** - This doctor of medical sciences is on the "Under 30" list of the prestigious Forbes magazine, which highlights the most innovative and promising young people under 30 years of age. Angelique is studying how astronauts' brains adapt to space travel and has recently started working for the *European Space Agency (ESA)*.

**Catherine De Bolle** - About one year ago Catherine De Bolle was elected director of Europol. This appointment is not only a big step forward for her personally, but also for gender equality in general. After all, Catherine is the first woman ever to become the head of Europol. She already broke barriers in 2012 by becoming the first female and also the youngest commissioner-general of the Federal Police ever. Now she holds the most prestigious police function in the EU.

**Damya Laoui** - This VUB-researcher was proclaimed New Scientist talent 2018. She received the prestigious prize for her cancer research. Damya developed a vaccine that would prevent the metastasis of tumors based on immune cells that are found in the tumor itself. She is hoping to start clinical trials this year.

**Nina Derwael** - Belgian, European and world champion, Nina Derwael has made history in the field of gymnastics. Her area of expertise? Uneven bars, a discipline in which she won a gold medal at the Belgian championship in May as well as at the European championship in August. Last November at the final of the uneven bars in Doha, the 18-year-old claimed the first world title for our country. Her achievements earned her numerous awards, including the Belgian National Sports Merit Award.

- ◇ For the book lovers amongst us: our compatriot Nathalie Vincke opened the **bookstore "Il était une fois"** in Oakville, 126 Lakeshore Road West, Ontario. She has a fine selection of books in French as well as books in English and even in Dutch. BD's, board games, decorative objects and even Belgian chocolate and speculoos are available! [www.iletait1fois.ca](http://www.iletait1fois.ca)



The winner of the previous quiz is Alain Scuvée from Granby (QC). The answer is: Isabelle de Mévius, a Belgian who is committed to promoting art and culture in Canada, in particular by opening the emblematic gallery "1700 La Poste" in the heart of Montreal. Congratulations!

This is the new question : **Which athlete of Belgian descent (parents from Brussels) won 4 medals for Canada in 4 consecutive Olympic games?** You can win a nice book if you send the right answer before April 15th to [Ottawa@diplobel.be](mailto:Ottawa@diplobel.be)

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