

## **73rd Independence Day celebrations in Ottawa**

The National Day reception was held at Delta Hotel in the evening of 15th August 2019. The reception was very well attended with a gathering of approximately 450 persons. Among the distinguished guests were – Ms. Martha Morgan, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mayor Jim Watson, Senators Leo Housakas & Thanh Hai Ngo, several Members of Parliament, Ambassadors and prominent figures from the world of business, media, culture, academics and prominent members of the Indian community from Ottawa , Toronto, Hamilton, Montreal, Kingston, Halifax and Vancouver.

The event started with National anthem of India followed by Canada. Montreal based Indian Sarod artist, Mr. Raja Bhattacharya along with his team of Tabla player and Tanpura player regaled the guests with a dazzling performance of Indian classical instrumental music.

High Commissioner addressed the gathering and spoke about the pace of developments in various fields – solar energy, space technology etc. He gave an insight into the recently concluded General Elections, ongoing celebrations of 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and 550<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev ji and flagship programmes like 'Make in India and Digital India'. He also remembered former EAM Smt Sushma Swaraj who passed away recently, for her tremendous 24x7 work for welfare of Indians abroad. He highlighted the growth of Indian students in Canada which has reached 172,600 making India the number one country as far as International students in Canada are concerned. Importance and contribution of the Indian diaspora in the growth of relations between the two countries was also acknowledged by him.

Ms. Martha Morgan, Dy Minister of Foreign Affairs also addressed the gathering and spoke about the collaboration and engagements of the two countries in the field of International Security, Higher Education, Climate change and other areas of mutual interest. She highlighted the increasing bilateral trade figures between the two countries. She stressed that people-to-people and business-to-business ties can take the relationship between the two countries to higher levels.

Deputy High Commissioner, Shri Arun Kumar Sahu delivered the vote of thanks to the dignitaries and guests present and to the organisations and various Indian Associations in Ottawa, Montreal & Kingston who have been supporting the Mission in promoting trade and cultural ties with Canada.

The evening concluded with the guests being treated to a sumptuous Indian platter. A few photos of the event are attached.

Ottawa

16.08.2019



MC of the event, Ms. Supriya Sharma welcoming the guests.



Guests being received by the High Commissioner



Arrival of more guests



AX Photos



High Commissioner Vikas Swarup addressing the gathering.



Ms. Martha Morgan, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs delivering her address



High Commissioner and Mrs. Aparna Swarup with Ms. Martha Morgan,  
Minister of Foreign Affairs

deputy



High Commissioner and Mrs. Aparna Swarup with the Mayor of Ottawa



High Commissioner with some of the guests



Cake

cutting by the HC, Chief guest and MPs



Artists giving Indian classical musical performance



Shri Arun Kumar Sahu, DHC delivering the vote of thanks





High Commissioner and Mrs. Aparna Swarup with Dy. High Commissioner, staff of the Mission and their spouses.

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