

REGIONAL NEWS

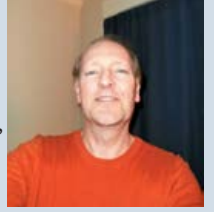
CANADA

Editorial

Dear Readers: Expect more in 2024! I don't have a crystal ball, but it's probably safe to say this year will be anything but dull. Equally safe to say: Life will become (even) more expensive, both here and in Switzerland. Case in point, a recent heads-up article in a Swiss tabloid alerted to 40 upcoming changes,

many pertaining to rising prices (fees, taxes) for products and services. Similar articles have appeared in Canada. The comments sections for such write-ups show a sense of helplessness - in both countries - with the cost of living soaring skyward. Maintaining the lifestyles we hold dear may require even

greater sacrifices at the altar of inflation. But let's not let that deter us from having fun; after all, we're clever and resourceful. Enjoy the year! avs@telus.net



ANDREW VON STUERMER
REGIONAL EDITOR

Organisation of the Swiss Abroad /
Organisation des Suisses de l'étranger /
Auslandschweizer-Organisation

Young Swiss Citizens' Celebration

On October 14, 2023, a festive young citizens' celebration was held at the Residence of the Swiss Confederation in West Vancouver, BC.

Consul General of Switzerland in Vancouver Thomas Schneider and his team members Silvana Renggli-Frey and Iwana Mahler welcomed 11 young people from Western Canada to this meaningful coming-of-age ceremony.

The festivities included cultural elements and music, emphasising the importance of Swiss citizenship and the bond with the homeland.

Many thank-yous also go to David Gsponer. The great sounds from his alphorn are always a treat!



YOUR OSA DELEGATES:

SAM OETTLI, YK
PHILIPPE MAGNENAT, QC
JOHANN RÖDIT / THOMAS ARN, BC
ANTOINE BELAIEFF / SUZANNE SCHÜRMANN, ON

Swiss Club Toronto Theatre Group

Theateraufführung 2024

„En heisse Droht“

Lustspiel in zwei Akten von Carmelo Pesenti

The play is in Swiss-German and will be performed by the Toronto Theatre Group at the following locations:

- Moorefield: Sunday, April 7, 2024, at 1:00 pm.
Maryborough Community Centre;
- Toronto: Sunday, April 14, 2024, at 2:00 pm.
Latvian Canadian Centre, 4 Credit Union Drv.

Contact: Maggie Hess at (905) 508 - 8014

Email: walter.brunner@sympatico.ca

The Theatre Group is once again looking forward to seeing you at one of the performances. We hope to make it an exciting event!

For more details, please contact your local Swiss club representative. For reservations in Toronto, please call Maggie Hess or email Walter Brunner. With apologies to our fans in Ottawa, we decided not to travel to Ottawa for a performance.

WALTER BRUNNER



Two scenes from the 2023 play "In Himmel wänd alli"



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Quinze ans de service

Monsieur Christian Coquoz fête ses quinze ans de service en tant que Consul honoraire de Suisse aux Bahamas.

Son rôle est de faire le lien entre:

- l'Ambassade de Suisse à Ottawa et les Bahamas pour les questions politiques;
- les ressortissants suisses aux Bahamas et le Consulat général de Suisse à Montréal pour les questions consulaires.

Le Consulat général à Montréal tient à féliciter Christian Coquoz et son épouse Iva, pour leur engagement et leur précieux travail.

Consulat général de Suisse à Montréal Consulate General of Switzerland in Montreal

Fifteen Years of Service

Christian Coquoz celebrates fifteen years of service as Honorary Consul of Switzerland in the Bahamas.

His role is to act as a liaison between:

- the Embassy of Switzerland in Ottawa and the Bahamas for political matters;
- Swiss nationals based in the Bahamas and the Consulate General of Switzerland in Montreal for consular affairs.



The Consulate General in Montreal congratulates Christian Coquoz and his wife Iva for their continued commitment and valued work.

Des balados pour tous les goûts



Le balado "Des Alpes aux Rocheuses" présente des personnalités suisses, issues de divers milieux, ayant immigré au Canada. Elles vous livrent, en anglais ou en français, leur expérience, et vous font part de leurs défis et succès.

De la science à la culture, en passant par la politique, des entretiens au contenu truffés d'anecdotes et de références helvétiques vous attendent!

Chaque nouveau segment est réalisé par les représentations suisses au Canada. Dans le dernier épisode, découvrez Sonja Müller et Teresa Hunkeler et leur projet TourBird, une entreprise qui, via son site internet, propose des visites audio numériques autoguidées hors ligne, accessibles sur téléphone portable, sans avoir à télécharger d'application.

Podcasts for Every Taste

Our podcast *From the Alps to the Rockies* features Swiss personalities from a variety of backgrounds who have immigrated to Canada. They share their experiences, challenges, and successes in English or French.

From science to culture to politics, interviews brimming with anecdotes and Swiss references await you!

Each new segment is produced by the Swiss representations in Canada, and the most recent episode introduces Sonja Müller and Teresa Hunkeler. Discover this business duo's TourBird company which, through its website, offers self-guided digital audio tours accessible on cell phones, without the need to download an application.

LIENS / LINKS

Podcast:

Webpage
bit.ly/3weAdJt

iTunes
apple.co/3k3zkgE

Spotify
spoti.fi/3axbruF

YouTube
bit.ly/3gNLCcU

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Confederaziun svizra

Consulate General of Switzerland in Vancouver

From the Consulate General of Switzerland in Vancouver: Consular Days in Calgary, AB

Dear Swiss Citizens:

With the introduction of the biometric passport, applicants must appear in person to record their biometric data: A photograph of the applicant and two fingerprints are required.

The mobile biometric passport station provides you with an opportunity to have your data taken in CALGARY, AB where our consular officers from the Consulate General of Switzerland in Vancouver will receive you from **May 13 through May 16, 2024**.

If your passport has expired, will expire in 2024 through 2027, or if you are a new applicant and would like to take advantage of this opportunity, please complete your application (one per applicant) for a new passport and / or Swiss ID card at the following website:

www.schweizerpass.ch. Please note you can change the language in the top right-hand corner.

Please follow the procedure for Swiss nationals living abroad:

- It is absolutely critical that you enter "Calgary 2024" under "Remarks", otherwise your application will be processed automatically for an appointment in Vancouver;
- It is also mandatory that you enter a cell phone number and an email address;
- Please make a new application – even if you already have an active one with the Consulate;
- If you would like to make an appointment together with another family member / person, please indicate this in the "Remarks" section;
- Please ignore the automated confirmation email that you will receive after submitting your application.

Deadline for applications: February 25, 2024



Important: If your civil status (birth of children, marriages, divorces, passing of spouse, name) is not up to date with the Swiss registry at the time of the event, your application may not be considered.

Your application will be reviewed, but it will not guarantee an appointment. You will receive confirmation of the appointment together with information about the exact location, date, time, as well as further instructions (payment of **fees**, etc.) by March 31, 2024, at the latest. Please note we cannot consider specific date / time preferences.

You may also take care of the biometrics in Vancouver, or while on vacation in Switzerland where your personal scheduling preferences can be better accommodated.

Please feel free to pass this information on to other fellow Swiss.

If you have any questions, contact us by email at vancouver.biomob@eda.admin.ch.

The Consulate reserves the right to reschedule its Consular Days if the number of applications does not justify the visit, or for reasons of force majeure.

Ottawa Valley Swiss Club

The Ottawa Valley Swiss Club's annual Christmas festivities were a joyful celebration, helping to usher in the 2023 holiday season in the presence of His Excellency Olaf Kjelsen, Ambassador of the Swiss Confederation, and Mrs. Kjelsen.

The Samichlaus celebrations, held on December 3 in honour of St. Nicholas, started with the annual Seniors' Luncheon event where a delicious meal of roast beef, spätzle, and apple strudel was served. Festive carols sung by the Montagna Singers Choir were enjoyed by all.

Following the luncheon, families and children gathered for the children's Christmas party. Children of all ages loved the Gritibänz man pass-the-parcel game, at the end of which they all

received presents. The youngsters crafted beautiful Christmas wreaths decorated with wooden Samichlaus figures to take home and adorn many a mantle and door. Crafts, gingerbread decorating, an entertaining talent show, and plenty of delicious home-baked goodies and seasonal drinks were also highlights of the day.

Samichlaus and Schmutzli made a much anticipated appearance at the end of the party. With greetings for everyone, Samichlaus distributed presents and Schmutzli handed out delicious Gritibänz bread men to the eager children while making sure the youngsters were all well behaved ... and they were!

Please stay tuned for upcoming events in 2024,



including the AGM, First of August celebration, Swiss Parents' Club outings, events held by the Montagna Singers, and the Swiss Seniors' Club luncheons.

For more information on upcoming events, visit ottawavalleysswissclub.ca and join our mailing list by emailing info@ottawavalleysswissclub.ca.

TEXT AND PHOTO CREDITS: OLIVIA CRAFT



Swiss Club Saskatoon

Our AGM was held on Sunday, October 29, 2023, at the Sky Chef restaurant in Warman, SK, north of Saskatoon. The food was good and the room more than large enough to accommodate us.

■ The following Executives were acclaimed:

Elisabeth Eilinger, President; Georg Nievergelt, Treasurer; Barbara Wingeier, Social Convener; and Hayley Schwendemann, Secretary. Marc Schwendemann was voted the new Vice-President.

The afternoon ended with our ever popular raffle. I believe our members donated close to 10 loaves of freshly baked Zopf bread for the raffle; the Club donated other wonderful goods, along with three baskets of assorted items.

The Santa event was held on Saturday, December 2, 2023, at the Neuanlage Community Centre in Neuanlage, SK. Most of the kids in the Club live closer to this community than to Saskatoon, so we brought the event to them. Santa found us at our new location with

treat bags for kids big and small. As always, this event was a potluck, and the tables were beautifully decorated. There was also a raffle but with items for the children only.

The next upcoming event is our raclette lunch. No date has been set yet, but it will probably be held in February 2024, hosted by Rosemarie Eilinger in Saskatoon. Our June BBQ will be hosted by Ronny Zimmerman at his home in Asquith, SK.

If you would like to receive information about our Club and activities, contact us at swissclubsaskatoon@hotmail.com, or call / text me at 1 - 306 - 260 - 8030.

New members are always welcome, and membership is free the first year. Even though our name is Swiss Club Saskatoon, we welcome Swiss from anywhere in Saskatchewan.

ELISABETH EILINGER, PRESIDENT
SWISS CLUB SASKATOON



FÉDÉRATION DES SOCIÉTÉS SUISSES DE L'EST DU CANADA FEDERATION OF SWISS SOCIETIES IN EASTERN CANADA

Compatriotes et Ami.e.s de la Communauté Suisse,

Tout simplement quelques mots pour vous offrir nos bons vœux pour cette Nouvelle Année. Nous souhaitons à toutes et à tous de la joie, du bonheur, beaucoup de santé et, très important, l'espoir d'un monde meilleur.

Notre assemblée générale annuelle, qui a lieu le 27 janvier, réunira l'actuel comité avec les président.e.s et plusieurs représentant.e.s de clubs et sociétés suisses de la province de Québec, d'ex-président.e.s de la Fédération des Sociétés Suisses de l'Est du Canada. Ainsi que notre délégué à l'OSE et des représentants du Consulat de Suisse à Montréal.

Il sera question d'élection pour de nouveaux membres au comité. Nous sommes toujours à la recherche de candidats prêts à prendre quelques responsabilités, incluant une personne pour la présidence.

Le comité se réunit principalement pour l'organisation de la Fête Nationale Suisse au Mont Sutton. Ceci inclut l'élaboration du programme annuel avec recherche de commanditaires, recherche de prix pour la tombola, recherche de musiciens suisses, choix des fournisseurs et commandes, contrats divers, organisation du travail et des bénévoles, etc., etc... Et bien sûr, travailler pendant l'évènement pour que tout se déroule bien.

En 2024, la Fête Nationale Suisse aura lieu le samedi 3 août. Nous espérons vous y rencontrer!

Si vous êtes intéressé.e, pour le comité ou autre, svp communiquer avec nous à fedesuisse@gmail.com.

Continuez à visiter notre site internet www.fedesuisse.com et à nous suivre sur Facebook www.facebook.com/Fedesuisse.

VOTRE COMITÉ 2023

Dear Swiss Community; Dear Friends:

Just a few words to extend our best wishes for this New Year. We wish everyone joy, happiness, good health, and - most importantly - hope for a better world.

At our AGM, taking place on January 27, the current committee will meet with the presidents and several representatives of Swiss clubs and societies in the province of Quebec, former presidents of the Federation of Swiss Societies in Eastern Canada, our OSA delegate, as well as with representatives of the Swiss Consulate in Montreal.

We will be electing new committee members. We are always looking for candidates willing to take on responsibilities, including someone for the presidency.

The committee meets primarily to plan for the Swiss National Day celebrations at Mont Sutton. This includes developing the annual programme with the search for sponsors, sourcing of tombola prizes, finding Swiss musicians, selecting suppliers and placing orders, signing various contracts, organising the work and the volunteers, and so on.

And, of course, the committee works during the event in order to ensure that everything runs smoothly.

In 2024, the Swiss National Day celebrations will take place on Saturday, August 3. We look forward to seeing you there!

For anyone interested in the committee, or in other functions, please contact us at fedesuisse@gmail.com.

Continue to visit our website www.fedesuisse.com and follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Fedesuisse.

YOUR 2023 COMMITTEE

	Importer and Distributor of Exclusive Swiss Food Products	
	Premium Confitures, Fine Couvertures for Chocolatiers, Bakery products and Eau de Vies (for professional use only)	
	Handmade Biber, Birnbrot, Baerli-Biber, Cailler, Ragusa, La Conditoria, Aromat, Kressi, Roesti, Latwerge, Thomy and more Swiss products	
	Wholesaler of Fine Foods, Swiss Cheese & Meat Specialties	
Alpine European Imports Inc. 3940 Boyd Road Washago, ON L0K 2B0 (Warehouse open by appointment only)		
		We sell to retailers, hotels, restaurants, chocolatiers, bakeries and more. Tel: (905) 853 - 0693 Toll Free: (877) 853 - 0693 website: www.alpineeuropeanimports.ca email: info@alpineeuropeanimports.ca

Edmonton Swiss Society and Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir Association

Edmonton Swiss Society (ESS)

We ended 2023 with two very well-attended events. The fondue in November is always a hit with our members. This year, the weather was more geared towards a BBQ, but the guests enjoyed it just the same. They also brought along friends eager to enjoy this Swiss specialty.

The Samichlaus party for the children on December 3 was held outdoors at Rundle Park again. It's a beautiful setting with a picnic area and a room close by to warm up. Since there was no snow for sledding or ice for skating, the children did a lot of crafts and made bannock on the fire pit. The highlight was of course a visit from Samichlaus and the traditional goody bag for everyone.



We wish you all a Happy New Year and hope to see you at one of our various get-togethers!

Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir (ESMC)

The ESMC wishes everyone a very Happy New Year! With the beginning of the 2023 fall semester, our Choir's membership experienced quite a boost: Six new and young singers pushed down the average age of our white-haired men's club!



On November 12, the ESMC took part in the 8-choir Multicultural Choral Festival at the Edmonton Winspear Centre. It was a great and very enjoyable experience. The mass choir opened with *O Canada*, and the concert closed with *Auld Lang Syne*. Our Choir

presented *Alpsäge* and *Möcht no-n-es bitzeli läbe*, by Laura Hawley, a Canadian composer based in Edmonton.

The Advent season included three concerts at retirement homes, as well as our grand concert on December 17 at the St. Vital Catholic Church in Beaumont with guest artists Zemlia Duo and Ali Berube.



Our first event in 2024 will be on February 25 at 3:00 pm, at the McDougall United Church in Edmonton where we are invited to be part of Pro Coro Canada's Tenors and Basses, welcoming 70 singers from the Grande Prairie Boys' Choir to present *Frost & Fire*. This concert is sponsored by the ESMC. For more information, and to order tickets, refer to <https://www.procoro.ca/performances>.

We are also getting ready for the North American Swiss Singing Alliance (NASSA) Sängerfest in Pittsburgh, PA, June 20 to 23, 2024.

For more information about future events, and on how to join the Choir, please visit our website www.esmca.ca. Kindly "like" the ESS on Facebook under "Edmonton Swiss Society", and the ESMC under "Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir".

PETER THUT ON BEHALF OF THE ESS AND THE ESMC

Westcoast German News

The West Coasts of Canada and the US host a thriving German-speaking community that has roots in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland.



Westcoast German News showcases the rich tapestry of German-speaking culture, history, and traditions on Pacific shores. The website connects individuals, businesses, and organisations within this vibrant community, serving as a hub and information source for cultural exchange, networking, and business opportunities.

Whether you're a recent arrival, a long-time resident, or a business owner, Westcoast German News is your platform to share your life, business, and events, and contribute to a stronger, more connected community.

On our blog, you can share your experiences as a German-speaking expatriate. Explore our events calendar to search for Christmas markets, Oktoberfest celebrations, and other cultural festivals. Promote your event for \$20 a month.

For businesses looking to connect with a German-speaking audience, Westcoast German News offers advertising and promotional features.

For content submission or advertising enquiries, reach out to our editorial team.

<http://www.westcoastgermannews.com>

ELKE PORTER
(604) 828 - 8788

Swiss Canadian Mountain Range Association (Metro Vancouver)

After having contributed to the *Swiss Review* for more than 20 years - informing readers about news and events at the Swiss Canadian Mountain Range Association (SCMRA) - Marlies Baumann has retired from article writing.

All our members would like to share their appreciation for the time and effort Marlies put into writing the Club news. Marlies continues to work tirelessly at the SCMRA in an executive position, and she runs the 300 metre range. Her ongoing efforts to participate actively are very much appreciated!

In the fall of 2023, the Club hosted its annual shooting and social events; all were well attended and thoroughly enjoyed. The Cheese shoot at the trap range was a lot of fun for both new and experienced shooters, and all Club participants received slices of aged Gruyère cheese. The SCMRA would like to thank Arla Food Inc. and the Swiss Cheese Association for providing excellent quality cheese. Special thank-yous go to Thomas Schwendener and Roger Grover for organising the event. Participants were also able to purchase imported Appenzeller and Emmentaler cheeses.

The annual Schützenfest was held on the first weekend in October 2023. People came from Vancouver Island, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Calgary to participate in the two-day shooting competition.

Robert Best from the SCMRA won first prize, Tony Chow from Los Angeles was second, and the third prize went to Tem Greenhalgh from Vancouver Island.

On October 22, 2023, the Club held the very popular and well-attended Sau shoot. For the first time, all the meat was supplied by Meridian Farm Market; it was of exceptional quality. The first prize went to Rene Zollinger (not for the first time), Gordon Verrall came in second, and Roger Grover was third.

To end the 2023 fall season, Elizabeth Rechsteiner organised a Jass tournament in the Chalet, with both old and young players participating. Hopefully this trend will continue. The tournament was won by Albert Rechsteiner who accepted the title of *Jass König* for 2023.

A very successful Christmas party marked the grand finale of the Club year. The Samichlaus party was a great success, with 24 children visiting Santa, and with more than 50 adults participating. Glühwein and hot chocolate kept us warm, and the baked goods and snacks were a delight.

The SCMRA would like to thank the many volunteers who ensured the success of the numerous shooting and social events held throughout 2023. Hopefully, 2024 will see the same - or an even greater - level of participation!

HOCKEY IN SWITZERLAND

If you are a hockey player and eligible for a
SWISS PASSPORT contact:

INTERNATIONAL SPORTS MANAGEMENT

All ages welcome.



Int'l Sports Management (ISM)

10255 Cote de Liesse Road

Dorval, Québec, Canada H9P 1A3

Phone: 514-631 4266

Fax: 514-636 0365

E-mail: d.mccann@mccannequipment.ca

Swiss Club Thames Valley

As I sit here at my desk, waiting for the snow to fall, I remember this is the time of year for giving.

On December 3, Santa and Mrs. Claus came to visit the children in Milverton. They all received a bag with peanuts, chocolate, and a clementine.

On March 4, we will be having a Metzgete and play Jass.

Until next time, I would like to wish everyone a prosperous New Year!

Check out our Facebook group "Thames Valley Swiss Club" and our website <https://swissclubtv.wixsite.com/swiss-club-thames-va>.

CHRISTINE HEIMPEL

LE CANADA, passionnément !

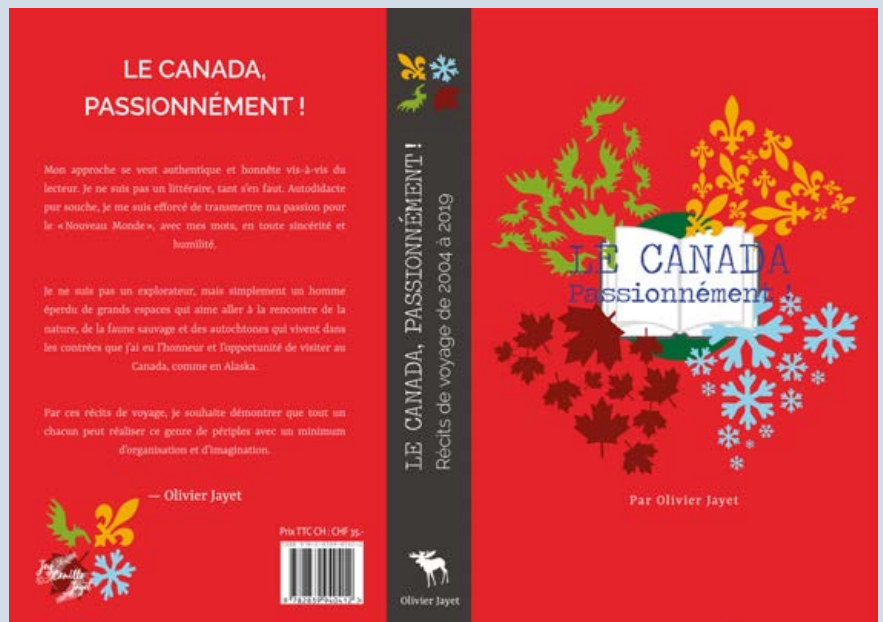
Bon nombre de guides de voyage inondent le marché du livre avec plus ou moins de succès. Ils sont indéniablement nécessaires lorsque l'on veut préparer un voyage en terre lointaine. Mais, ils ne peuvent pas expliquer le ressenti du voyageur lorsque celui-ci se trouve confronté à la réalité du terrain.

Mon approche se veut authentique et honnête vis-à-vis du lecteur. Je ne suis pas un littéraire, tant s'en faut. Autodidacte pur souche, je me suis efforcé de transmettre ma passion pour le «Nouveau Monde», avec mes mots, en toute sincérité et humilité.

Je ne suis pas un explorateur, mais simplement un homme éperdu de grands espaces qui aime aller à la rencontre de la nature, de la faune sauvage et des autochtones qui vivent dans les contrées que j'ai eu l'honneur et l'opportunité de visiter au Canada, comme en Alaska.

Par ces récits de voyage, je souhaite démontrer que tout un chacun peut réaliser ce genre de périples avec un minimum d'organisation et d'imagination. Vivre ses rêves, même les plus fous ! N'est-ce pas un noble objectif de vie ?

Le livre comportera environ 280 pages + un important cahier de 200 photos originales réalisées lors mes nombreux périples. La préface a été écrite par mon ami, Robert Collette, ancien ambassadeur du Canada pour la Suisse.



Le prix du livre se monte à CHF 35.— , sans les frais de livraison. Il sera disponible dans le courant du mois de novembre 2023. Avec mes cordiaux messages.

Canada Suisse
CEO - Olivier Jayet
info@canada-suisse.ch
+ 41 79 374 81 56
#canadasuisse
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OLIVIER JAYET



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DEPUIS PLUS DE 50 ANS, CERTAINS DES PLUS GRANDS GROUPES EUROPÉENS, DE MÊME QUE DE NOMBREUSES PME, ONT COMPTÉ SUR LETTE AU CANADA POUR LEUR OFFRIR DES COMPÉTENCES DU PLUS HAUT NIVEAU ET UNE APPROCHE PRATIQUE À LA RÉOLUTION DE LEURS PROBLÈMES.

CONTACTEZ BERNARD LETTE À

BLETTE@LETTE.CA
MONTRÉAL: +1.514.788.0998
TORONTO: +1.416.971.4898

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Regional News Canada

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<https://www.swisscommunity.org/en/news-media/swiss-revue/news-from-your-region/canada>