



National
Gallery
of Canada

Musée
des beaux-arts
du Canada



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY AT NATIONAL GALLERY CELEBRATES NEW CITIZENS AND INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

50 new citizens to be sworn in

OTTAWA, MARCH 8, 2019—The Institute for Canadian Citizenship (ICC), in partnership with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, and the National Gallery of Canada, will celebrate 50 citizens from 25 countries in a special citizenship ceremony marking International Women's Day.

The ICC will host roundtable discussions during which the new Canadian citizens will share their journeys to citizenship and reflect on what Canadian citizenship means to them. Female leaders from the community, including from the National Gallery of Canada, will facilitate the discussions.

"It is an honour to celebrate International Women's Day here at the National Gallery of Canada with our newest Canadian citizens and among inspiring works of art from Canada and around the world. Canada has benefited greatly because of women's achievements throughout our history. As Indigenous women leading societies, as innovators accelerating progress, as activists leading social change, and as champions in business and government, women throughout Canada's history have shaped our Canadian identity," said Anita Vandenberg, Member of Parliament for Ottawa West—Nepean, on behalf of the Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship. "Today we celebrate the contributions of women and renew our efforts in achieving gender equality—in Canada and around the world. To our new citizens, we encourage you to continue in these women's footsteps by bringing to Canada your energy and commitment to your community."

"The National Gallery of Canada is delighted to host this citizenship ceremony on International Women's Day," said Anne Eschapassee, Interim Co-Director and Co-CEO and Deputy Director of Exhibitions and Outreach at the National Gallery of Canada. "Our magnificent collection of art serves as a source of pride and inspiration for all Canadians. As we welcome our new citizens today, we invite them to enjoy this rich collection now belonging to them too. We look forward to sharing many meaningful experiences in celebration of our country's increasingly diverse and thriving culture."

"We are honoured to recognize International Women's Day at this special citizenship ceremony. We celebrate the achievements of women all over the world, including those who now call Canada home, and we recognize the contribution of women in the arts, sciences, technology, and other sectors. Today is a day of celebration, and what better way to mark the occasion than in our nation's capital," said Amy Matchen of the Institute for Canadian Citizenship.

Community citizenship ceremonies held in collaboration with the ICC are a celebration of Canada's newest citizens, and offer unique opportunities for new citizens and community members to reflect on the meaning of active, engaged citizenship. Each community citizenship ceremony held in collaboration with the ICC includes signature roundtable discussions, a citizenship ceremony, and a reception. Citizenship ceremonies are open to the public. Everyone is encouraged to attend today's citizenship ceremony, which starts at 11:00 a.m. at the National Gallery of Canada, Scotiabank Great Hall, 380 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, K1N 9N4. Celebrating new citizens and their stories offers a unique opportunity for all of us to reflect on the rights, duties, and privileges of Canadian citizenship.

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ABOUT THE INSTITUTE FOR CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP

Powered by a passionate and committed national network, the Institute for Canadian Citizenship (ICC) delivers programs and special projects that inspire Canadians to be inclusive, create opportunities to connect, and encourage active citizenship. The ICC is a national charity co-founded by The Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson and John Ralston Saul. For more information, visit icc-icc.ca.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF CANADA

The National Gallery of Canada is home to the most important collections of historical and contemporary Canadian art. The Gallery also maintains Canada's premier collection of European Art from the 14th to the 21st centuries, as well as important works of American, Asian, and Indigenous Art and renowned international collections of prints, drawings, and photographs. In 2015, the National Gallery of Canada established the Canadian Photography Institute, a global multidisciplinary research centre dedicated to the history, evolution, and future of photography. Created in 1880, the National Gallery of Canada has played a key role in Canadian culture for well over a century. Among its principal missions is to increase access to excellent works of art for all Canadians. For more information, visit gallery.ca and follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), and [Instagram](#).

ABOUT IMMIGRATION, REFUGEES AND CITIZENSHIP CANADA

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada facilitates the arrival of immigrants, provides protection to refugees, and offers programming to help newcomers settle in Canada. The department also: grants citizenship, and issues travel documents (such as passports) to Canadians. For more information, visit [IRCC](#).

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