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### **REPORT:**

#### **A. Border Related News Media**

##### **Shoppers clog bridges as Canadian dollar soars Buffalo News - August 1, 2011**

Western New York retailers are reaping rewards but drivers face delays on bridges as shoppers flock across the border from Canada for deals, with the Canadian dollar at its highest since August 2007. Buffalo's WIVB reports that all three international bridges in western New York were jammed Sunday afternoon with wait times exceeding an hour at the Lewiston, Queenston and Peace bridges. Custom officials were anticipating this since Monday is a Canadian holiday, but the situation was intensified by the rapid raise of the Canadian dollar to \$1.06 against the U.S. dollar. Statistics from the Bridge Commission indicate almost 150,000 cars passed the Lewiston-Queenston Bridge into the U.S. in July. The Rainbow Bridge was almost at 200,000, a 15 percent increase over this time last year.

##### **Homeland Security Funds Come To Franklin County Watertown Daily Times – August 5, 2011**

Franklin County District Attorney Derek Champagne gave the county legislature some good news Thursday: The county will be receiving more than half a million dollars in grant funds from the federal Department of Homeland Security. The funds are coming from three separate grants and will be used primarily for Internet security and northern border protection. Champagne presented the information about the grants to the legislature Thursday at its regular bimonthly meeting in Malone. The smallest of the three grants, for \$28,747, will be used to upgrade Internet firewalls on county computers for every department. According to Champagne, existing firewalls haven't been updated in four years, making this a much-needed upgrade. "Since I interface with other departments," explained Champagne, "they need to be secured so that we're all covered." The remaining funds from this grant will go toward an Internet security assessment of the county's computer systems by a consultant. The second grant Champagne told legislators about Thursday is in the amount of \$33,500. These funds will be used by the county's border narcotics task force and will aid with security along the U.S./Canada border. Specifically, the funds will be used for computer equipment and advanced-technology video monitoring systems for use along the border. The third and largest of the grants, amounting to \$500,218, is from 2009 and is part of the federal Operation Stonegarden initiative, which helps law enforcement agencies provide security along U.S. borders. Champagne said the 2008 grant of \$1.2 million has just been depleted, so the 2009 grant award can now be activated. Most of these funds will go to area law enforcement agencies. The Malone Police Department will be granted \$50,000 for a new vehicle. The department will be purchasing a specialized SUV for use in border-related operations. This comes as welcome news for Malone Police Chief Chris Premo. "We've been without an SUV for a year or so now," Premo said. "We had the old one for about eight years. We just haven't had the money in the budget to replace it." The SUV, according to Premo, will be a Chevrolet Tahoe, similar to one currently in use by local U.S. Border Patrol agents, with a police package. This means it will have heavy duty suspension and other features specific to police vehicles. "Because Malone is only 12 miles from the border," said Champagne, "[Malone P.D.] is eligible for these funds." Another \$54,000 of the grant will go toward paying for overtime for area law enforcement officers, \$40,000 for wages and

\$14,000 for associated benefits such as health insurance. These funds will be dispersed among law enforcement agencies that perform border security operations, including the New York State Police and area police departments. In addition, upwards of \$300,000 will be spent on computer equipment, high-tech license plate readers for law enforcement vehicles, and other advanced video equipment directly related to border enforcement. Another \$89,000 will go toward related expenses such as GPS equipment, vehicle fuel and maintenance, and equipment installation. Champagne thanked state and federal officials for helping to secure these funds. "Fiscally, we're dealing with times we've never seen before," he said. "We're pleased that Senator Schumer, Congressman Owens, and Governor Cuomo realize that this border creates a situation that can't be ignored - even in these difficult times."

**BUILDING NIAGARA: Up, up and away for rejuvenated Falls airport**  
**The Niagara Gazette - July 31, 2011**

Since the opening of a new terminal at the Niagara Falls International Airport, outbound passenger traffic is up. Actually, it's way up, as in a 173 percent increase through the first six months of this year when compared to the same time period a year ago. In 2011, officials from the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority expect the facility to eclipse the 100,000-passenger mark. A second jet bridge, which was originally expected to be needed several years into the terminal's development, has already been added. "We knew that the passenger counts were going to improve and we're pleased in the direction they are going," said NFTA Public Affairs Director C. Douglas Hartmayer. "We are making good progress." There's still work to be done on some fronts to ensure the facility reaches its full potential, but there's no denying much has been achieved since the days when the old airport languished as yet another sign of disappointment and inactivity in the Niagara Falls area. Since officially welcoming its first flight in December of 2009, the new terminal has exhibited growth in not only passengers, but air carriers. Spirit Airlines and Vision Airlines have joined DirectAir in offering services in the Falls. The added business keeps the once seldom-used parking lot in front of the old terminal filled most days. Growth in passenger traffic prompted the NFTA to purchase a vacant lot across the street, making available a total of 1,100 parking spaces for customers. For Henry Sloma, the acting chairman of the board for the NFTA who also serves as chairman of the Niagara County Industrial Development Agency, the on-site activity is matched only by the growth in the surrounding area. Passengers visiting the terminal often spend time in local restaurants and shopping centers. It's not uncommon for Canadian travelers to stay in local hotels. "I think they are getting a good return on their investment," Sloma said, referring to the community's support for the \$32 million project. "I think the money flowing through the community is the return on their investment and I think there's more to come." Sloma believes the increase in flight business has resulted in more interest from hoteliers for IDA-assisted projects along Niagara Falls Boulevard, with the latest example being new plans for the construction of a new 45,000-square-foot, four-story Hampton Inn near the northbound exit ramp from the I-190. "We are literally rebuilding Route 62 and you are going to see more businesses there," Sloma said. Finding an audience - NFTA officials estimate that about 70 percent of the people visiting the new airport terminal are from Canada. They maintain the new Falls facility is viewed as an accommodating yet more affordable alternative to larger airports in Ontario. That's one of the reasons why a large part of the agency's marketing campaign is focused on Canadian consumers. "The Canadian market is a very popular market," Hartmayer said. "When you look at the license plates on the cars in our parking lots, they show that a large majority of the people using our airport are from Canada." Increased interest from the Canadians is one of the draws NFTA officials are now using to convince existing carriers to add more routes and new carriers to get involved. Hartmayer said NFTA officials regularly attend conferences and meet directly with airline executives in hopes of being able to add more service in the Falls. Sloma said the primary target remains low-cost and ultra low-cost carriers, with an eye on future expansion into the as-yet-untapped international market. The main runway at the Falls airport offers take-off length long enough to accommodate the largest aircraft in the world, including those commonly used in European and Asian markets. In the past, Sloma said, it was difficult starting conversations with domestic and international carriers. With the numbers recorded since the opening of the new terminal, he said the sales job is getting easier. "We have a legitimate product now," he said. "It's an easy sell. I think that was the missing ingredient when we were marketing before."

Marketing and money - Ed Warneck's company, DirectAir, started offering flights out of the Niagara Falls airport long before the first passengers set foot inside the new terminal. He said his company enjoyed increased sales of between 20 and 25 percent since the new facility opened and he looks forward to continuing to do business in the Niagara Region. "The good news is Niagara Falls has been a good market for us," he said. "We proved that the product would work. We were the carrier that came in and took the chance on our coins and stayed with it. We have more traffic and that's good for the airport." Warneck is, however, disappointed in the progress that's been made on what he considers a key issue in the terminal's continued development — joint marketing efforts. Last August, during a gathering of local officials called together to specifically discuss airport marketing plans, Warneck warned of the need to ramp up the community's involvement in airport promotions. Nearly a year later, Warneck says not much has changed. As a result, he believes local leaders are continuing to miss out on the chance to sell Niagara Falls as a destination to a wider audience, including people looking for vacation spots in places like Myrtle Beach, S.C., Lakeland, Fla. and other communities served by his company and others currently flying in and out of the Falls. "People don't get on planes to fly planes," he said. "They get on planes to go see something. We know how to market. We know how to market a destination." Warneck pointed to Lakeland as an example of the type of commitment he'd like to see from the Falls region. He noted that the community has agreed to contribute \$1 million to a joint-marketing campaign with his company that will focus not only on the airline's services, but key aspects of the destination as a whole. "They are very, very aggressive and eager and working with us as a team," he said. "That's what it takes to succeed. It really takes a team effort in promotion."

Niagara's team - State Sen. George Maziarz, R-Newfane, argues the construction of the new terminal represents the most visible sign of job creation and growth from a project financed with help from the local share of casino revenue since the opening of Seneca Niagara Casino. As such, he believes the community must devote more resources to building on the new terminal's initial success, especially on the marketing front. He supports Warneck's vision of strengthening "reverse tourism" efforts to attract more visitors from southern states and other parts of the country into Niagara Falls and Niagara County. Maziarz said the county's airport marketing committee has made some progress on that front of late. He said the partners are planning to announce soon a new airport-related promotional partnership involving the Seneca Gaming Corp. and its Hickory Stick Golf Course in Lewiston. He said committee members also continue to work with other private marketing partners, including the owners of Fashion Outlets Niagara Falls in the Town of Niagara. In addition, Maziarz said, county lawmakers are applying for a federal grant that will be used to support additional airport marketing. As has been the case in the past, Maziarz suggested the City of Niagara Falls could do more to support future marketing efforts, arguing that casino revenue supplied by the city for the development of a new North End Underground Railroad interpretative center and heritage corridor would be better spent on promoting the airport. "That will bring tourists here as opposed to spending \$350,000 for an Underground Railroad museum," Maziarz said. Mayor Paul Dyster said he doesn't view it as an either or proposition. He believes the development of the Underground Railroad project is a sound investment, one that will improve the attractiveness of the Niagara Falls region as a whole. He argues that such attractions can be effective marketing tools in and of themselves. "We all know we have to develop additional attractions," Dyster said. "An attraction isn't always an amusement park. An Underground Railroad museum can be an attraction. It's something that can help build a destination." As for the city's support of airport marketing efforts, Dyster noted that the city allocated \$1 million per year in casino revenue to fund the airport's construction and recently agreed to provide \$50,000 in additional money to match the county's contribution. He said the city remains prepared to do its part to promote what it views as a key asset in the community. "We are clearly taking the stance that we have a responsibility to participate in this, but we also believe that others do as well," Dyster said.

**\$1.3 million in border development funds available**  
**Buffalo News -August 2, 2011**

New York Secretary of State Cesar Peralas says \$1.3 million in federal grant money is available to northern counties under a program administered by the Northern Border Regional Commission. The funds are intended to alleviate economic distress and create jobs in 36 counties in the four states that make up the Northern Border Region. In New York, priority will be given to projects in the distressed counties of Clinton, Franklin, Fulton,

Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida, Oswego and St. Lawrence, as well as the Utica-Rome area. In addition to the distressed counties, Cayuga, Essex, Hamilton, Herkimer, Madison and Seneca counties fall within the Northern Border Region. Projects must develop infrastructure; provide job skills and job-related education; or provide basic health care and other public services for areas that are severely economically distressed.

**More Vehicles, Less Revenue For OBPA**  
**Watertown Daily Times – August 4, 2011**

More vehicles crossed the Ogdensburg-Prescott International Bridge in July compared to the past year, but that has not equated to more revenue for the Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority, which owns and operates the crossing. "Our auto crossings are up 13 percent," said Frederick S. Morrill, OBPA chief financial officer, at Wednesday's board of directors meeting. "We're up 8.6 percent over our budget number of crossings, but we're down on revenue." Mr. Morrill attributed the discrepancy in revenues to decreased truck traffic and the popularity of commuter discount cards, which offer passengers a lower price for crossing the bridge. The authority predicts bridge revenue based on the non-discounted \$2.75 automobile toll. "Our bridge traffic is generally tied to the dollar," said Wade A. Davis, OBPA executive director. "With the dollar at parity, a lot of Canadian shoppers are coming over." "We're fortunate to have Canadian people come over here and spend their dollars," said OBPA Vice Chairman Samuel J. LaMacchia, who presided over the meeting. The authority notes the increasing traffic as work continues to complete a \$22 million rehabilitation project on the 61-year-old bridge. "Work has shifted to the south-bound lane," said Steven J. Lawrence, OBPA director of operations. "There will be a lot more space for traffic going across the bridge." Mr. Morrill said the authority's finances were in order, with revenues above preliminary estimates and fewer expenses than expected. "Our rental income is up, but our port operating revenue is down," said Mr. Morrill. "That's because no ships have come in this year." In other business, the board approved purchase of a bridge property damage insurance policy for the bridge. The bridge will be insured at a value of \$203 million through July 28, 2012, at a premium of \$118,605. The board chose to purchase protection from terrorist attack, earthquake and 36 months of coverage for loss of income as part of the deal. "We could have an earthquake or a terrorist attack tomorrow," said Mr. LaMacchia, "but the loss of income would hurt us later." "If we have any major structural catastrophe, 36 months might not be long enough," said OBPA counsel Francis P. Cappello. The board will meet next on Sept. 13.

**Jefferson County creates radio communications committee to plan emergency response improvements**  
**Watertown Daily Times – August 4, 2011**

Jefferson County's Board of Legislators has named a committee to create a plan that will enable all county service entities to communicate during disasters. Steven T. Harter, R-Watertown, will chair the committee. Barry M. Ormsby, R-Belleville, and Philip N. Reed Sr., R-Fishers Landing, will join him. "The Jefferson County public safety infrastructure is rapidly aging," Chairwoman Carolyn D. Fitzpatrick, R-Watertown, said, in naming the committee members on Tuesday night. "We need the best communications we can have." The Sheriff's Department is required to move from wideband to narrowband communications by January 2013. That will be accomplished through a \$900,000 grant it shared with the city of Watertown and Office of Fire and Emergency Management from the federal Public Safety Interoperable Communications grant program. Town fire departments and others who share in response work operate on lower frequencies and are not required to comply with the 2013 federal mandate. "The county fire radio system is very old and antiquated," Mr. Plummer said. "It's hard to get parts for." County officials want everyone from Public Health Service workers to Dog Control officers to Highway Department plow drivers to be able to coordinate necessary response in disasters. One of the major challenges will be to find available bandwidth, especially in a region that requires approval from two countries: the U.S. and Canada. Canada will undergo the same transition from analog to digital television that American stations conducted in early 2009 on Aug. 31. That change could help open up frequencies. Mr. Harter was a volunteer fireman, past chief of the Rutland Fire Department and the first deputy county fire coordinator for about 20 years, including when the current system was first installed in 1972. "Though it's had some upgrades, the system is still in use," he said. "It is high time to change it — it is remarkable to me that it has served as well as it has." The committee's 18-month mission will include

comparing the county's needs to the myriad of options available. "There's all sorts of new technology that we will be a part of, but prudence says that we should not be looking just to upgrade the fire system but that we should be considering a comprehensive system including EMS, police, dog catcher and highway department — anyone using the county radio facilities," he said. The county may work with other counties on the discovery process. The other committee members, Mr. Ormsby and Mr. Reed, are members of the Fire Advisory Board. "It is critical that first responders are able to communicate in a clear and concise way," Mr. Reed said. "It's something we would hope we can lay down the groundwork and get progression so that the taxpayer in the county has minimal impact." Mr. Ormsby has been a volunteer firefighter for about 30 years.

### **Last week in Congress/How our representatives voted Buffalo News - July 31, 2011**

Here are the recent votes of Western New York's four members of the House of Representatives and the state's two U. S. senators on major legislation in Congress last week. A "Y" means the member voted for the measure; an "N" means the member voted against the measure; an "A" means the member did not vote.

#### **HOUSE:**

Printing Government Documents —The House approved an amendment sponsored by Marlin Stutzman, R-Ind., to the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act that would cut fiscal 2012 funding for the Government Printing Office by \$4.94 million. The vote July 22 was 218 yeas to 194 nays. Rep. Brian Higgins, D-Buffalo, N; Rep.

Kathleen C. Hochul, D-Amherst, Y; Rep. Tom Reed, R-Corning, Y; Rep. Louise M. Slaughter, D-Fairport, N. Funding Legislative Branch—The House passed the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act sponsored by Rep. Ander Crenshaw, R-Fla. The bill would provide \$3.3 billion for the legislative branch in fiscal 2012. The vote July 22 was 252 yeas to 159 nays. Higgins, Y; Hochul, Y; Reed, Y; Slaughter, N.

Cutting EPA Funding—The House rejected an amendment sponsored by Rep. Tim Huelskamp, R-Kan., to the Department of the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Act that would have cut funding for the Environmental Protection Agency, arts and humanities agencies, and other programs by \$3 billion. The vote Monday was 126 yeas to 284 nays. Higgins, N; Hochul, N; Reed, N; Slaughter, N.

Ocean Energy Funding—The House approved an amendment sponsored by Rep. Cedric Richmond, D-La., to the Department of the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Act that would increase funding for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement by \$5 million and offset the increase by cutting funding for the Rangeland Management Fund by \$6 million. The vote Monday was 221 yeas to 192 nays. Higgins, Y; Hochul, Y; Reed, N; Slaughter, Y.

Oil, Gas Drilling Permits—The House rejected an amendment sponsored by Rep. Kathleen Hochul, D-Amherst, to the Department of the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations that would have cut spending by the Bureau of Land Management to process applications for oil and natural gas drilling permits by \$4.5 million. Hochul said her amendment made the "simple statement that these companies should pay for the administrative expenses associated with processing their applications" rather than have taxpayers pay for the processing. An opponent, Rep. Mike Simpson, RIdaho, said the amendment would prevent the bureau from using fees it collected from the oil and gas industry to process drilling applications. The vote Monday was 141 yeas to 271 nays. Higgins, Y; Hochul, Y; Reed, N; Slaughter, Y.

Veterans and Higher Education —The House agreed to the Senate amendment to the Restoring GI Bill Fairness Act sponsored by Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., that would temporarily suspend a cap on payments for tuition and fees at private colleges for veterans enrolled in educational assistance programs at Veterans Affairs. The vote Tuesday was unanimous with 424 yeas. Higgins, Y; Hochul, Y; Reed, Y; Slaughter, Y.

Spill Scenario for Keystone XL Pipeline—The House rejected an amendment sponsored by Rep. Colleen Hanabusa, D-Hawaii, to the North American-Made Energy Security Act that would have required TransCanada to complete a worst-case spill scenario analysis before receiving a construction and operating permit for its proposed Keystone XL pipeline to carry oil from Alberta to the Gulf of Mexico coast. The vote Tuesday was 168 yeas to 260 nays. Higgins, Y; Hochul, Y; Reed, N; Slaughter, Y.

Permit for Keystone XL Pipeline —The House passed the North American-Made Energy Security Act sponsored by Rep. Lee Terry, R-Neb. The bill would direct President Obama to decide by Nov. 1 whether to

grant a permit for TransCanada's construction of the Keystone XL pipeline to carry oil from Alberta to the Gulf of Mexico coast. The vote Tuesday was 279 yeas to 147 nays. Higgins, Y; Hochul, Y; Reed, Y; Slaughter, N. Endangered Species—The House approved an amendment sponsored by Rep. Norm Dicks, D-Wash., to the Department of the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Act eliminates a provision to block funding for the Fish and Wildlife Service to list species as threatened or endangered and designate critical habitat for recovery of the species. The vote Wednesday was 224 yeas to 202 nays. Higgins, Y; Hochul, Y; Reed, N; Slaughter, Y.

Great Lakes Initiative—The House approved an amendment sponsored by Rep. Steve LaTourette, R-Ohio, to the Department of the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Act that would increase funding for the Great Lakes Initiative by \$50 million and increase funding for other environmental programs involving the Great Lakes by \$13 million. It would offset the increases by cutting funding for climate change programs by \$20 million. The vote Wednesday was 220 yeas to 206 nays. Higgins, Y; Hochul, Y; Reed, N; Slaughter, Y.

Diesel Emissions Grants—The House rejected an amendment sponsored by Rep. Laura Richardson, D-Calif., to the Department of the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Act that would have added \$5 million for grants issued to states under the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act and offset the increase by cutting \$10 million from the EPA Buildings and Facilities account. The vote Wednesday was 193 yeas to 232 nays. Higgins, Y; Hochul, Y; Reed, Y; Slaughter, Y.

Council on Environmental Quality—The House rejected an amendment sponsored by Rep. James Lankford, R-Okla., to the Department of the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Act that would have eliminated funding for the Council on Environmental Quality. The vote Thursday was 198 yeas to 227 nays. Higgins, N; Hochul, N; Reed, N; Slaughter, N.

#### SENATE

Cut, Cap and Balance—The Senate tabled a motion to consider the Cut, Cap and Balance Act sponsored by Rep. Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah, that would have cut discretionary government spending in fiscal 2012 by \$111 billion and capped spending at variable percentages of GDP in fiscal 2012 through fiscal 2021. It also would have sought a vote in Congress on a balanced budget amendment to the U. S. Constitution. A supporter, Sen. John Thune, R-S. D., called the bill “a serious, meaningful effort to address spending and debt and to put this country back on a sustainable fiscal course.” An opponent, Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., said it was a “radical plan to kill Medicare and Social Security” while preserving tax breaks for corporations and the wealthy. The vote July 22 was 51 yeas to 46 nays. Sen. Kirsten E. Gillibrand, D, A; Sen. Charles E. Schumer, D, Y.

U. S. District Judge—The Senate confirmed the nomination of Paul A. Engelmayer to serve as U. S. District Judge for the Southern District of New York. The vote Tuesday was unanimous with 98 yeas. Gillibrand, Y; Schumer, Y. Renominating FBI Director—The Senate confirmed the nomination of Robert S. Mueller III to continue serving as director of the FBI for a term ending in September 2013. The vote Wednesday was unanimous with 100 yeas. Gillibrand, Y; Schumer, Y.

### **Deadline set for pipeline approval Goerie.com – August 2, 2011**

This week, both chambers will take up fiscal 2012 appropriations bills and measures to raise the national-debt ceiling. Here's how area members of Congress voted on major issues in the week ending Friday.

House - Here's how area members of Congress voted on major issues in the week ending Friday.

U.S.-Canada oil pipeline - Voting 279-147, the House on July 26 set a deadline of Nov. 1 for President Obama to act on a Canadian firm's application to build a 2,000-mile pipeline for shipping crude oil extracted from tar sands in the province of Alberta to U.S. refineries in Texas. The bill (HR 1938) is nonbinding because this is solely an executive-branch decision. A yes vote was to pass the bill.

Voting yes: Robert Brady, D-1; Chaka Fattah, D-2; Mike Kelly, R-3; Jason Altmire, D-4; Glenn Thompson, R-5; Jim Gerlach, R-6; Pat Meehan, R-7; Michael Fitzpatrick, R-8; Bill Shuster, R-9; Tom Marino, R-10; Lou Barletta, R-11; Mark Critz, D-12; Mike Doyle, D-14; Charlie Dent, R-15; Joseph Pitts, R-16; Tim Holden, D-17; Tim Murphy, R-18; Todd Platts, R-19.

Voting no: Allyson Schwartz, D-13.

Oil-spill scenarios - Voting 168 for and 260 against, the House on July 26 refused to delay a U.S. permit for building the Keystone XL pipeline (HR 1938, above) until the applicant, TransCanada Corp., has shown it has sufficiently calculated worst-case scenarios and could respond immediately and effectively to an oil spill. A yes vote backed the amendment.

Voting yes: Fattah, Critz, Schwartz.

Voting no: Brady, Kelly, Altmire, Thompson, Gerlach, Meehan, Fitzpatrick, Shuster, Marino, Barletta, Doyle, Dent, Pitts, Holden, Murphy, Platts.

Endangered Species Act - The House on Wednesday upheld, 224-202, existing procedures for listing plants, animals and their habitats as candidates for protection under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. This killed language that sought to use a funds cutoff to prevent the Fish and Wildlife Service in 2012 from taking this first step toward potentially protecting certain declining species. About 260 species now are listed as potential candidates for protection under the law. The vote occurred during consideration of a GOP-drafted Interior Department budget (HR 2584) that remained in debate. A yes vote backed the amendment.

Voting yes: Brady, Fattah, Altmire, Gerlach, Meehan, Fitzpatrick, Critz, Schwartz, Doyle, Dent, Holden, Platts.

Voting no: Kelly, Thompson, Shuster, Marino, Barletta, Pitts, Murphy.

Greenhouse-gas regulation - Voting 235-191, the House on Wednesday cut in half the fiscal 2012 budget for the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program, under which power plants, refineries and other major polluters must disclose emissions data to the Environmental Protection Agency. The amendment to HR 2584 (above) shifted \$6.2 million of the program's approximately \$13 million budget to deficit reduction. A yes vote backed the amendment.

Voting yes: Kelly, Altmire, Thompson, Meehan, Shuster, Marino, Barletta, Critz, Dent, Pitts, Holden, Murphy, Platts.

Voting no: Brady, Fattah, Gerlach, Fitzpatrick, Schwartz, Doyle.

Senate

FBI Director Mueller - By a vote of 100-0, the Senate on July 27 confirmed Robert S. Mueller III to lead the FBI for two more years. Mueller began a 10-year term as FBI director on Sept. 4, 2001, as a George W. Bush appointee. A yes vote was to confirm Mueller.

Voting yes: Pat Toomey, R; Bob Casey, D.

### **Summit will seek more upstate clout Buffalo News - August 1, 2011**

Politically, upstate is New York's poor stepchild. The upstate region accounts for just 40 percent of the seats in the Assembly, and the New York City population is growing faster, which will only weaken upstate's clout in the State Legislature in the future. While regional groups like Unshackle Upstate and local ones, including the Buffalo Niagara Partnership, are focused on pushing an upstate-oriented political agenda in Albany, it's a tough sell given downstate's dominance in the Assembly. That's where this week's "Accelerate Upstate" economic summit comes in. The two-day session, scheduled Thursday and Friday at various locations in the Buffalo Niagara region, aims to develop a plan to spur economic growth across upstate and accelerate the pace of projects that are a top priority in the region. "Rather than spend all our energy, emotion and resources on trying to change or bend New York State's political realities, we decided we needed to undertake a fresh and inclusive look at how—given those political realities—upstate can work with others across the state" on those priority issues and projects, said Andrew J. Rudnick, the Partnership's president. The event, organized by the Partnership, will include sessions that look at building upstate's connections with Canada, developing a work force with the skills that match the jobs being created in the region and also how to develop state political policies that can benefit both upstate and downstate. "The upstate region suffers from a lack of sufficient support from Albany," Rudnick said. "We need to get creative and focus on real solutions to our problems to get the actions we need to grow." Amy Liu, a senior fellow and deputy director at the Brookings Institution, will be the event's keynote speaker, with a speech Friday discussing ways metro areas can cash in on developing economic trends. Other participants include Brian McMahan, executive director of the New York State Economic Development Council; Ken Warner, executive director of Unions and Businesses United in Construction; and Garrick Utley, the former NBC journalist who now is the president of the State University of

New York Levin Institute. Within six weeks of the conference, its organizers hope to complete an "action plan" based on recommendations developed during the session that will be distributed to participants and sent to political leaders in Albany. For a complete schedule of events, go to the Strictly Business blog at [www.buffalonews.com](http://www.buffalonews.com).

**Region's council starts work**  
**Buffalo News - August 3, 2011**

The state's new economic development council held a closed-door meeting Wednesday to start work on a regional plan for the Western New York economy -- a process that officials insisted will be open to the community in the future. Lt. Gov. Robert J. Duffy said the private meeting was held Wednesday morning at the University at Buffalo to allow the council's 30 members an introduction to the new regional council and its procedures out of the public spotlight. But he pledged that the public will have ample opportunity to participate in the process in the coming months. "In terms of getting it off the ground, we felt it was of benefit to holding a closed meeting," Duffy said following the session, adding that it was not considered subject to the Open Meetings Law. "We're going to be opening up meetings to the public in the future," he said. "They'll have ample opportunity in the future." The development council held its first meeting a little more than a week after Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo appointed its 30 members, ranging from local business executives to elected officials from across Western New York. The local council -- which covers Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie and Niagara counties -- is one of 10 that the governor established last week in an attempt to coordinate the state's economic development efforts while giving regional officials a greater say on the projects that should be considered a priority. A statewide conference is expected to be held next month to "energize" the process, and each of the 10 regional councils is scheduled to submit its plans by mid-November. The state then is expected to make funding announcements in December. Projects recommended by a regional council are not guaranteed to receive funding. In all, the councils will compete for the \$1 billion that the state has pledged for economic development in the current state budget. The councils will vie directly for about \$200 million in direct funding, with the top four plans each receiving \$40 million of that \$200 million. The next six proposals will split the remaining \$40 million. No region will be shut out of that funding. The councils can also apply for another \$800 million in funding from state agencies for everything from road construction to energy-efficiency grants. Duffy said the state is encouraging the regions to cooperate. "Competition is good," Duffy said. "Our job is to make sure competition isn't destructive." Buffalo Mayor Byron W. Brown said the council will have to keep a narrow focus on key projects from across the region to have the greatest impact. "I'm hoping the process won't dilute the financial needs of major projects within regions," Brown said. "All of us know that this is going to be a competition of sorts between regions," Brown said. "This is going to cause us to be very strategic in our focus." Satish K. Tripathi, UB president and the council's co-chairman, said the group's work could have an important impact on the region's economy in the long run. "I feel it's like a down payment," Tripathi said. "It's a good idea to think more regionally and have a public process." Thomas A. Kucharski, president of the Buffalo Niagara Enterprise business development and marketing organization and a council member, described the opening session as positive. He said Western New York already has done much of the work to pinpoint important industries and projects, from the Buffalo waterfront and medical campus, to targeted industries ranging from tourism to agribusiness and advanced manufacturing.

**Old Fort Erie prepares for Canada's largest battle re-enactment this weekend**  
**Bullet News Niagara – August 2, 2011**

The crackle of muskets and smell of black powder will return to Old Fort Erie this weekend. Niagara Parks Commission staff is preparing for a big crowd for the 25th annual re-enactment of the Siege of Fort Erie – the largest battle re-enactment of its kind in Canada. Hundreds of costumed re-enactors are expected along with many more visitors for the two-day event, which depicts some of the bloodiest clashes from the closing days of the War of 1812. Event highlights include battle re-enactments on Saturday at 11 a.m., 2 p.m., and 8 p.m., followed by lantern tours of the Old Fort at 9 p.m. A memorial service honouring all of those who fell in battle will be held on Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and the last battle re-enactment of the weekend will take place at 1 p.m.

Please visit [www.niagaraparksheritage.com](http://www.niagaraparksheritage.com) for full schedule of events. Outdoor battles are free to attend. Admission to the fort is \$12.25 for adults (13+) and \$7.95 for children (six-12). Children five and under are free. Event Schedule

August 6

- 10 a.m. – Fort and camps open to the public
- 11 a.m. – South Field – Major Buck’s Surrender & ‘Stars & Stripes’ run up
- 12 p.m. – Inside Fort – Uniforms of the War of 1812
- 1 p.m. – South Field – British Artillery Demonstration
- 2 p.m. – South Field – BATTLE
- 3 p.m. – Camp Displays
- 4 p.m. – Inside Fort – U.S. Artillery Demonstration
- 6 p.m. – Fort and Camps will be closed to the public
- 8 p.m. – South Field – Battle: Drummond’s night assault on the Fort
- 9 p.m. – In the Fort – Lantern tours

August 7

- 10 a.m. – Fort and Camps open to the public
- 10 a.m. – Memorial Service at the Monument
- 1 p.m. – South Field – Battle: ‘U.S. Sortie’
- 2 p.m. – In the Fort – American Evacuation of the Fort & ‘Union Jack’ run up
- 4 p.m. – Camp closed to the public
- 5 p.m. – Fort Closed

**Cutting edge attraction promises sky-high thrills**  
**Buffalo News - July 30, 2011**

Call it the Canadian Mile High Club. On Monday, an attraction dubbed "EdgeWalk" is opening at the CN Tower in Toronto that will allow the brave or foolhardy to walk outside around a five-foot steel grate ledge encircling the top of the tower's restaurant. The ledge is more than 1,168 feet above the ground, the equivalent of 116 stories. And, by the way, there's -- gulp -- no handrail. Daredevils instead will be tethered to an overhead safety rail. Those bold or crazy enough will be encouraged, but not forced, to reach out their arms and lean over the edge to take in a truly obstructionless view of Toronto and Lake Ontario. On a clear day, you can see Niagara Falls from this most unique vantage point, according to a Toronto Star reporter who tried out the attraction earlier this week. EdgeWalk's promoters are calling it "the world's highest full circle hands-free walk" and predicting the attraction will be "among Toronto's, if not the world's, greatest attractions." The Canadian attraction joins a growing number of extreme tourist sites around the world that provide spectacular views from adrenaline-inducing perches, including the Ledge at the Willis (formerly Sears) Tower in Chicago, which lets visitors stand in glass boxes that jut out 1,353 feet above the ground, and Skywalk at the Grand Canyon, a glass deck that extends over the world-famous canyon below. EdgeWalk is no cheap thrill. A ticket will set you back \$175 (Canadian). The price covers the 90-minute experience, which includes a 20- to 30-minute "walk" in groups of six to eight people supervised by a leader. Each participant also will receive a video and certificate of achievement as well as admission to the tower's Look Out and Glass Floor Level. Walkers will go through training at a base camp to prepare them for heading out onto the ledge. They will be given special "walk suits" - jumpsuits that go over their clothes. Hats, gloves and other gear also may be provided depending on the weather. Walkers must wear fully enclosed, lace-up athletic shoes, but will be provided shoes if they don't have appropriate footwear. Lanyards will be provided for people wearing glasses. Because of the nature of the attraction, there will be all sorts of restrictions on participants. EdgeWalkers must be at least 13 years old, weigh more than 75 but less than 310 pounds, and "be in good physical health, have full body control and hand-eye foot coordination and be able to walk independently (without walking aids or medical devices)," according to the EdgeWalk website. Pregnant women are banned, as are people with broken bones or prosthetic limbs, people who have had seizures within the last six months and don't have a driver's license because of the seizures, people with chest pain or shortness of breath and people under the influence of alcohol or drugs. The attraction will be closed during severe weather, such as electrical storms or high winds. However, the website

enigmatically offers: "Varying weather conditions will make the EdgeWalk experience more unique." EdgeWalk is slated to be open every day from sunrise to sunset through October. Starting next year, it's scheduled to be open from about May through October. EdgeWalk is set to be open to the public on Monday, but tickets are already on sale. For more information, go to [www.edgewalkcntower.ca](http://www.edgewalkcntower.ca). For tickets, call (416) 601-3833 or 855-553-3833.

**Wallenda optimistic about wire-walk - Canada tells him to submit plan**  
**Buffalo News - August 4, 2011**

Nik Wallenda will leave Western New York today feeling "very optimistic" about his chances at walking a high wire over Niagara Falls, though Canadian officials gave him no indication Thursday whether they would approve his plan. One day after New York State lawmakers endorsed the plan, Wallenda met in Canada with Niagara Parks Commission General Manager Fay Booker for a 45-minute introductory session. "We wanted to give her and her board the respect of introducing ourselves and state that we realize it's a process and whatever we have to do to get the board's approval, we're going to comply with," said Winston Simone, Wallenda's manager. Booker told Wallenda that he would need to submit a written proposal to the commission, which has generally opposed stunting in the past. Simone said Wallenda plans to submit the proposal in the next few weeks. A quicker approval would help Wallenda plan, though the stunt may not be at the top of the Niagara Parks Commission's list. "We want to put together something that hopefully impressed the board," Simone said. "You probably only get one swing at the bat, so we want it to be great." Wallenda would need Canadian approval to walk 1,800 feet from Goat Island to Canada across the Niagara Gorge, directly in front of the Horseshoe Falls, on a two-inch-wide cable. Simone said Booker was "very nice" and seemed to be open to the proposal, which the commission will examine to determine if it meets the Niagara Parks Act and the commission's newly revised strategic plan. That plan identifies "commercialization of the parks" as a negative and refers to the volatility of the tourism market. A previous commission news release noted that the parks on both sides of the border were originally created to "remove the carnival atmosphere that appeared adjacent to both cataracts," and spokesman Tony Baldinelli previously said the commission had a "history of discouraging this type of activity." Canadian officials first banned stunting at the falls in 1887 after a stuntman fell to his death. American officials then enacted a ban. Wallenda was granted an exception to the ban on the U.S. side in June. State lawmakers have cited the potential economic and tourism benefits of the high-wire walk. Worries about a "Tinseltown" atmosphere were an issue the last time a stuntman requested Canadian permission to wire-walk across the falls in 2008, said former commission member Bob Gale. Stuntman Jay Cochrane never received permission to walk across the falls in 2008 because he didn't submit a written plan, though Gale said the commission's inclination was to reject the idea. "The general answer from everyone is, 'No, no, no,' and I always thought we should do due diligence of it as a Parks Commission and have the person present a business plan," said Gale, who served as the board's marketing and events committee chairman from 2007 to 2009. "That's the reasonable way to do it." Gale said potential safety issues also concerned Canadian parks officials then, something Wallenda addressed Wednesday when he met with state officials and first responders in Niagara Falls, N.Y. Wallenda would not wear a harness during the wire-walk and would have a helicopter pilot ready to pick him up if he fell and grabbed the cable. State Sen. George D. Maziarz, R-Newfane, along with Sen. Mark Grisanti, R-Buffalo, met Thursday in Canada with Niagara Falls, Ont., Mayor James Diodati, who has endorsed the plan, and Kim Craitor, a member of Ontario Provincial Parliament. Craitor said the Parks Commission acts as a self-funded, nontaxpayer-supported entity but on some issues consults Dalton McGuinty, the premier of Ontario. Craitor said most of his constituents want more information about the proposal, which he views as a "possible opportunity." The commission's next meeting is Sept. 21, though parks officials did not say whether Wallenda's proposal would be discussed. "With something as special as Niagara Falls, I think they're taking their time, and that's fine," Simone said. He said Wallenda, who lives with his wife and children in Sarasota, Fla., was impressed with Western New York. "We love it up here," Simone said. "I think it's beautiful. I think people are incredibly nice. We feel very welcome here."

**Coalition awards grants for Great Lakes cleanup**  
**Buffalo News - August 4, 2011**

An environmental coalition has awarded \$115,000 in grants to nine groups for Great Lakes restoration projects. The Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition grants announced this week will help organizations participate in a federal program designed to improve the region's environment by cleaning up toxic pollution, preventing species invasions and rebuilding habitat and wetlands. Among the winning projects are efforts to reduce phosphorus levels and invasive reeds in western Lake Erie, remove noxious algae in Lake Ontario's Sodus Bay, restore the lower Salmon Creek watershed in New York and clean up streams in Lake Superior's Duluth Harbor. In Michigan, grants will help restore the Rifle River, remove a dam on the Shiawassee River that limits fish passage, and replace invasive plants in Saginaw Bay with native wild rice \_\_\_ Online: Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition: <http://healthylakes.org>

**Clinton: TransCanada to upgrade pipeline safety**  
**Buffalo News - August 4, 2011**

A Canadian company that hopes to pipe oil from western Canada to Texas is working with U.S. officials to develop safety standards beyond those required by law, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said Thursday. The new standards should ensure that if a permit for the 1,900-mile pipeline is issued, "the project will be as safe as it could possibly be," Clinton said. "We've been clear from the beginning that the safety of the pipeline is one of our highest priorities," said Clinton, who is expected to decide on the project by the end of the year. The State Department has authority over the pipeline because it crosses an international boundary. Calgary-based TransCanada wants to build a pipeline to carry crude oil extracted from tar sands in Alberta, Canada, to refineries in Houston and Port Arthur, Texas. James Millar, a spokesman for TransCanada, said the company has agreed to 57 conditions above and beyond industry standards for the \$7 billion Keystone XL project. Among other changes, the company has agreed to build the pipeline 4 feet below ground, instead of 3 feet, and will allow an increased number of inspections, Millar said. It also will install a greater number of safety shut-off valves than usual. Besides the State Department, at least two federal agencies - the Environmental Protection Agency and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration - are reviewing the project. The State Department is expected to complete an environmental analysis this month, and officials have scheduled a series of public meetings this fall in states where the pipeline will travel, including Montana, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma. Appearing at a news conference with Canadian Foreign Minister John Baird, Clinton said officials were "leaving no stone unturned in this process," including a review of hundreds of thousands of comments from the public. "We have worked diligently to make sure that we have full understanding of all of the consequences, including the very important point that the minister made to me about energy security and what that means for our two countries," Clinton said. Baird called Keystone XL "a very important project, not just for our government but for Canadians and the future of the Canadian economy." He said he was pleased that U.S. officials have scheduled public meetings this fall and looks forward to the U.S. decision. The project would double the capacity of an existing pipeline from Canada, and supporters say it could significantly reduce U.S. dependence on Middle Eastern oil. Environmental groups say the pipeline would bring "dirty oil" that requires huge amounts of energy to extract and could cause an ecological disaster in case of a spill. \_\_\_ Online: State Department Keystone XL website: [www.keystonepipeline-xl.state.gov/clientsite/keystonexl.nsf?Open](http://www.keystonepipeline-xl.state.gov/clientsite/keystonexl.nsf?Open)

**State delays hydrofracking rules till late summer**  
**Rochester Democrat & Chronicle – August 3, 2011**

A Department of Environmental Conservation spokeswoman says New York's new rules for natural gas drilling using high-volume hydraulic fracturing have been pushed back to "late summer." A 60-day public comment period was supposed to start in early August for the latest draft of DEC's review of gas exploration techniques used in the Marcellus Shale, a gas-rich formation underlying New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and eastern Ohio. Permitting has been on hold in New York since summer 2008 while the review is under way. The latest delay is to allow DEC to incorporate the findings of a socioeconomic impact study done by Buffalo-based

consultant Ecology and Environment. DEC officials say permits for Marcellus wells won't be issued until a final version of the review is complete, likely sometime next year.

## **B. Border Communications**

# **Minister Baird's Visit to Washington Highlights Canada's Commitment to Jobs and Economic Growth with United States**

**(No. 221 - August 4, 2011 - 3:30 p.m. ET)** John Baird, Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister, today successfully concluded his first formal bilateral meeting with his American counterpart, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton. Minister Baird will also meet with other senior officials while in Washington as he reaffirms the importance of the Canada-U.S. relationship.

"Canada and the United States both benefit from having what is, quite possibly, the world's most successful bilateral relationship ever and we are looking to further improve relations," said Minister Baird. "Canadians recently gave our government a strong mandate to focus on Canada's economic recovery. Strong relations with our largest trading partner and closest neighbour are vital to our success in that regard."

Minister Baird and Secretary Clinton discussed, among other things, the global economic recovery and the [Shared Border Vision initiative](#) announced by Prime Minister Stephen Harper and President Barack Obama on February 4, 2011.

"Stronger cooperation between Canada and the United States simply makes sense. The vision initiative will speed up the legitimate movement of people and goods between our two countries, while protecting our borders and the privacy of our citizens," said Minister Baird.

Minister Baird and Secretary Clinton further discussed the situation in Libya and the current unrest in Syria. Canada and the United States both strongly condemn the ongoing violent crackdown by the Syrian regime against its own people and will continue to work with international partners to enhance sanctions against the Assad regime.

While in Washington, Minister Baird also met with Suzan Johnson Cook, Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom, to discuss the operation of her office at the State Department. In the June 2011 Speech from the Throne, Prime Minister Stephen Harper committed to creating a new Office of Religious Freedom.

"I used the opportunity to draw on the experience and expertise of the Ambassador and inform her of Canadian efforts to support religious freedom around the world," said Minister Baird. "The issue of international freedom of religion is a matter that the Government of Canada takes very seriously. While still in the planning stages, we envision this office as part of our efforts to promote human rights, encourage the protection of religious minorities around the world and promote Canadian values."

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A backgrounder follows.

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Foreign Affairs Media Relations Office  
Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada  
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## **Backgrounder – A Snapshot of the Canada-United States Relationship**

Close trading partners and good neighbours, Canada and the United States have one of the strongest bilateral relationships in the world. The countries work closely in many forums, including the UN, the G-8 and G-20, NATO, the Organization of American States and APEC.

This visit by Minister Baird adds to the more than 100 ministerial-level visits by Canadian political leaders to the United States since January 2009. Prime Minister Stephen Harper met with President Barack Obama in Washington, D.C., in September 2009 and February 2011. President Obama's first foreign visit was to meet with Prime Minister Harper in Ottawa.

On February 4, 2011, Prime Minister Harper and President Obama issued the declaration [Beyond the Border: Shared Vision for Perimeter Security and Economic Competitiveness](#). The declaration establishes a new long-term partnership that will improve legitimate trade and travel between both countries while strengthening security and economic competitiveness. The two leaders also announced the creation of the United States-Canada [Regulatory Cooperation Council](#).

Canada and the United States are close allies and strong partners in places such as Afghanistan, Libya and Haiti. Our two countries have also worked closely in recent years to secure and dismantle weapons of mass destruction.

Canadians and Americans share the closest energy relationship in the world. Canada is the United States' largest and most secure supplier of oil, natural gas and electricity. Canada and the United States are working together on the Clean Energy Dialogue in support of the ongoing efforts toward building a low-carbon economy.

Canada and the United States have long shared the largest bilateral trade relationship in the world. In 2010, our bilateral trade reached \$645.7 billion, representing some \$1.7 billion worth of goods and services crossing the border every day. Of the 50 U.S. states, 34 count Canada as their number one export market, with Canada ranking in the top three export markets for a further 12 states. More than 8 million American jobs depend on trade with Canada.

Canada and the United States have one of the world's largest investment relationships. The United States is the largest foreign investor in Canada, with U.S. investors holding 54.5 percent (valued at \$306.1 billion) of Canada's total inward investment stock in 2010. According to U.S. statistics, Canada is the fifth-largest investor in the United States, with investments totalling \$206.1 billion in 2010.

The Canada-U.S. relationship is one of the world's most successful and is a top priority for the Harper government, which recently received a strong mandate from Canadians to focus on the economy, create jobs and ensure Canada's economic recovery continues.

## ***CSG/ERC Canada-U.S. Relations Update...***

### Cross-Border Travelers Face More Inspections

Travelers to Canada are facing more intensive scrutiny according to a report by the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA). The agency attributes an increase in secondary inspections to tougher identification requirements.

Travelers to the U.S., including those from Canada, must now display a passport or other approved document. According to the report these documents have resulted in more enforcement "triggers" at both Canadian and U.S. customs stations because they make it easier for officials on both sides of the border to match traveler indicia against criminal and terrorist databases.

The report does not indicate how many of the referrals to secondary inspection actually resulted in enforcement action or denial of entry.

The report comes at a time when both countries are looking for ways to reduce impediments to cross-border travel and trade.

### Jacobson Says Privacy Protected in Border Security Deal

U.S. Ambassador to Canada David Jacobson says the privacy rights of Canadians will be protected in the pending “perimeter security” agreement currently under negotiation by the U.S. and Canada.

Jacobson made the remarks at a recent event in Halifax. He was responding to comments made earlier by Canadian Privacy Commissioner Jennifer Stoddart which raised questions about whether the agreement will weaken Canadian restrictions on the use of personal data.

A key element of the security deal is expected to be a jointly managed customs database designed to track individuals as they enter or leave either country, with the information to be shared between the two. A report recently released by Stoddart’s office noted that decisions will need to be made about who will oversee the data, how widely it will be disseminated, and how it will be stored. It pointed out that the U.S currently collects fingerprints and other identifying information from foreign visitors and disseminates it broadly to multiple agencies, something which is not the practice in Canada.

Adopting the U.S. model Stoddart said, “would not only offend the value Canadians traditionally place in their privacy but may have the effect of hurting the reputation of Canada abroad as a destination of choice.”

Jacobson, however, said neither country would be asked to abandon its own rules and promised there will be no “infringement” on Canadian sovereignty. "Privacy concerns, human rights, fair and due process are just as important to Americans as they are to Canadians," he said.

Negotiations on the “Shared Vision for Perimeter Security and Economic Competitiveness”, announced by Prime Minister Harper and President Obama in February are designed to improve cross-border security and lessen impediments to travel and trade. The goal is to produce a “joint action plan” by September. Jacobson said the negotiators are working through a "myriad of complexities".

### Eastern Canadian Premiers, New England Governors Meet in Halifax

The New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers met last month in Halifax to address a number of issues of regional and international significance.

With the backdrop of a struggling economy discussion centered on how to facilitate cross-border travel and trade. Border security and energy and transportation infrastructure challenges were also high on the agenda.

Presentations by U.S. Ambassador to Canada David Jacobson and Canadian Ambassador to the United States Gary Doer described the bilateral “Shared Vision for Perimeter Security and Economic Competitiveness” talks initiated by President Obama and Prime Minister Harper in February. The ambassadors said their governments were working together to address duplicative and overlapping border regulations, tariffs and inadequate infrastructure while at the same time enhancing security. “This notion that somehow security trumps trade is really a false choice,” Jacobson told the group. “If we're smart and creative we can have both a more secure border and efficient border.”

Doer agreed, “It's not a trade-off,” he said, “If we use the right technology to prevent the kind of speed bumps we see in trade we can also enhance security. It's an improvement in both areas.”

The governors and premiers also discussed energy development, especially prospects for Newfoundland and Labrador’s Lower Churchill River hydro project. Vermont Gov. Peter Shumlin noted the project faces a number of challenges, not the least of which is transmission capacity. “We haven't adequately addressed how we get it to the market”, he said. Nova Scotia Premier Darrell Dexter responded that the Atlantic Canada premiers have committed to addressing the capacity issue and are working to resolve it.

Attending the meeting were Dexter, Shumlin, New Brunswick Premier David Alward, Prince Edward Island Premier Robert Ghiz, Newfoundland & Labrador Premier Kathy Dunderdale, Connecticut Governor Dannel Malloy, and Rhode Island Governor Lincoln Chafee.

#### Economist: Eastern Canada Vulnerable to Oil Shocks

A well-known economist says eastern Canada is vulnerable to energy supply and cost shocks due to its heavy reliance on foreign oil.

Peter Tertzakian, chief economist with ARC Financial Corp was quoted in the *Globe and Mail* saying Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes are “hostage” to events in Algeria, Nigeria and Saudi Arabia, major suppliers of eastern Canadian oil.

Tertzikian said this situation is unique among major oil-producing countries. While Canada is one of the world’s top producers, eastern Canada imports roughly 700,000 barrels per day of crude from foreign sources. Tertzikian said this is a result of inadequate pipeline capacity linking oil-rich western Canada to the east.

#### Nexus Lines Get Longer as Program Expands

U.S. travelers to Canada holding Nexus cards are encountering longer lines at Customs stations according to news reports. The Nexus program is designed to allow frequent travelers who meet certain qualifications to move more quickly through Customs. However, CBS News reports that during peak hours it is not uncommon for Nexus lines to be longer than the regular lines.

Participation in Nexus has increased significantly over the years and it is not evident the program has evolved to accommodate the larger numbers. Many observers have called for expansion of Customs facilities to avoid the specter of long travel delays.

In order to participate in Nexus, applicants must have clean criminal or immigration records, submit to an in-person interview with a Customs official and pay a fee. Air travelers participating in the program are required to submit to retinal imaging.

#### U.S. -- Canada Issues in the Spotlight at August Conference

Issues affecting the U.S. – Canada bilateral relationship will lead the bill at the CSG/ERC 2011 Annual Meeting & Regional Policy Forum, August 6-10 2011 at the Marriott Harborfront Hotel in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Policymakers from throughout the eastern states and eastern Canadian provinces will meet to discuss border security, trade, energy development, infrastructure and health care; to share ideas and seek regional solutions.

Among the major planned events:

- Sessions on off-shore wind-energy initiatives designed to bring together officials from both sides of the border to explore their experiences, share the latest research findings and foster discussion;
- Policy forum spotlighting U.S and Canadian perspectives on transportation infrastructure development;
- Policy forum on renewable energy;
- Plenary session comparing the U.S. and Canadian health care systems;
- Off-site tours focusing on key aspects of Nova Scotia agriculture; visits to “green buildings” featuring cutting-edge environmental technologies; and a site visit to Dartmouth-Halifax Bridges.

In addition, CSG/ERC's Canada -- U.S. Committee will meet Sunday, August 7. Topping the agenda will be presentations by Canadian Consul General in Boston, Patrick Binns, and Canadian Consul General in New York John Prato. The consul generals will address ongoing negotiations between the U.S. and Canada on the "perimeter security" initiative and "buy American" requirements.

The committee will also consider a proposed resolution supporting a joint U.S. – Canadian plan of action on a shared vision for perimeter security and economic competitiveness.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 1, 2011**

**SCHUMER ANNOUNCES MAJOR STEP IN FEDS' CREATION OF NO- DISCHARGE ZONE TO KEEP LAKE ONTARIO CLEAN: DUMPING SEWAGE & CHEMICALS OFF ROCHESTER'S SHORE PUTS SWIMMERS AND BEACHGOERS AT RISK**

*In Response to Schumer's Urging - Environmental Protection Agency Pledges Swift Review and Tentative Affirmation of New York's Request To Prevent Sewage and Chemical Dumping Off Of Rochester's Shore; Unclean Water Kept Beaches Closed For A Combined 74 Days Last Year*

*After 30-Day Public Comment Period, EPA Aims to Establish "No-Discharge Zone" That Has Reduced Pollution In Other New York Waterways*

*Schumer: EPA Agrees - Stop Dumping & Keep Rochester's Coastline Clean for Boaters and Beachgoers*

Today, U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer announced a major step in his push to clean up Lake Ontario's waters near Rochester's shore. Currently the New York Department of Environmental Conservation is seeking to create a "no-discharge zone" (NDZ) that would prohibit boats from dumping sewage and other potentially harmful chemicals into the waters offshore, a practice which can add pathogens and other toxins to the water. In response to Schumer's urging, the Environmental Protection Agency has stated their intention to tentatively approve the request to make Lake Ontario a NDZ, and aims to make that decision permanent after a 30 day public comment period. The EPA is in full agreement with Schumer regarding the urgency and importance of Lake Ontario's petition, and will act on the review of NYDEC application immediately. Schumer applauds EPA's response and urges that the decision be finalized in due time, as establishing the zone could greatly improve the water quality for summer beachgoers and swimmers, as well as boaters who anchor near the coast to swim.

"I applaud the EPA's decision to swiftly review and tentatively approve New York's request to establish a no-discharge zone in Lake Ontario," said Schumer. "It is imperative that we take the necessary steps to safeguard their health and protect the Lake's marine life and habitats, and the EPA agrees with the urgency and importance of this petition. I urge the EPA to move swiftly through the final steps required in putting human health and water quality first and swiftly establish a no-discharge zone."

In response to Schumer's June 27th letter to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, the EPA notes that the EPA is in full agreement with the urgency and importance of the NYDEC's petition for a "no-discharge zone" to be established in Lake Ontario. The Lake provides valuable natural, recreational and historic resources that contribute significantly to the local, regional and state economy. This action will protect the water quality of Lake Ontario, which includes 13,500 square miles and 326 linear shoreline miles of navigable portions of the lower Genesee, Oswego, and Black Rivers, and numerous tributaries, harbors, and embayments of the Lake.

Schumer notes that the local EPA Administrator has indicated the review of NYSDEC's petition for a NDZ and, in accordance with federal regulations, is concurrently preparing to publish a tentative affirmative determination in the Federal Register in August 2011. After publication of this affirmative determination, the EPA notes that

there will be a 30-day public comment period followed by a finalization of this determination shortly after. Schumer applauds this response from the EPA, and urges that this process move as quickly as possible.

The Federal Clean Water Act allows states to request the EPA to establish a No Discharge Zone (NDZ) which is an area of a waterbody or an entire waterbody into which the discharge of sewage, treated or untreated, from all vessels is completely prohibited. Discharge of raw sewage is already prohibited in Lake Ontario and in all in-land waterways and in-land lakes, but chemically treated sewage can still currently be dumped into the lake. States can have all or portions of their waters designated as a no discharge zone for vessel sewage for a variety of reasons. A No Discharge Zone may be designated to protect special aquatic habitats or species and to safeguard human health. A NDZ can also be designated to protect aquatic habitats when the state demonstrates availability of adequate and reasonably available pumpout or dump station facilities for the safe and sanitary removal and treatment of sewage.

In a June 27th visit to Durand Eastman Beach on Lake Ontario's Rochester shore, Schumer pushed for Lake Ontario to be designated as a No Discharge Zone, as it is imperative to take the necessary steps to safeguard the health of beach-goers and swimmers as well as to protect the Lake's marine life and habitats from pathogens, endocrine disrupters, and toxins such as formaldehyde, phenols and chlorine that are found in even treated waste. Currently boaters can discharge chemically treated waste anywhere in Lake Ontario, including just a few feet off shore. Schumer notes that boaters support his push for the NDZ designation, because the health of Lake Ontario is a paramount concern when fishing or recreating on the lake.

The Canadian government has already set more comprehensive safety standards to protect the health of swimmers and marine life along the Canadian Lake Ontario Coastal Waters. Specifically, in 2001 the Canadian government enacted the Canadian Shipping Act that effectively created a prohibition on discharging any waste within 1 mile of Canada's Lake Ontario shoreline and a ban on discharging untreated waste as far as 3 miles from shore since even treated waste can still deliver pathogens and toxins to local waters. Schumer argues that U.S. beach goers should clearly have the same protections as their Canadian neighbors on the other side of Lake Ontario.

Schumer notes that the DEC has taken all the appropriate steps to make Lake Ontario a NDZ. As required under the Federal Clean Water Act, the DEC first certified that a No Discharge Zone is needed to protect human and ecological health and demonstrated that there are enough existing shoreline pump out centers to meet boaters needs. The DEC has worked over the years to help fund more pump-put locations, and there are now 37 located across the Lake Ontario coastline, most of which are available to boaters for free or for a nominal charge. The DEC filed their application with the EPA in May 2011, and the EPA's pledge to swiftly review the petition and set up a tentative no-discharge zone is a very positive step. Schumer notes that the EPA must do everything in its power to make this decision permanent after the 30-day public comment period.

Lake Ontario is last in the chain of Great Lakes that straddle the border between Canada and the United States and is the dominating natural asset in this region. Currently there are ten municipal water supplies that draw water from Lake Ontario, serving more than 760,000 people in New York State. Moreover, as part of the Great Lakes System, Lake Ontario is one component of a reservoir that contains 95% of the fresh surface water in the United States and is the largest single reservoir on earth. Lake Ontario is also a major economic driver and its harbors embayments, creeks, and wetlands host numerous commercial and recreational activities such as shipping, fishing, boating, and tourism, in addition to supporting a remarkable diversity of wildlife and fish spawning areas.

A copy of the EPA Regional Administrator's response to Senator Schumer's request appears below:

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Schumer:

Thank you for your letter dated July 27, 2011 addressed to Lisa P. Jackson, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency which has been forwarded to me for reply.

In your letter, you supported the petition submitted by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to designate the New York State portions of Lake Ontario as a No-Discharge Zone (NDZ) to ban the discharges of treated or untreated sewage from boats, pursuant to the Clean Water Act. On May 31, 2011, the EPA was pleased to receive the NYSDEC's petition for a No-Discharge Zone. Establishment of a NDZ will be a significant step towards protecting the waters of Lake Ontario.

Lake Ontario provides valuable natural, recreational and historic resources that contribute significantly to the local, regional and state economy. This action will protect the water quality of Lake Ontario, which includes 13,500 square miles and 326 linear shoreline miles of navigable portions of the lower Genesee, Oswego, and Black Rivers, and numerous tributaries, harbors, and embayments of the Lake. The EPA is in full agreement with the urgency and importance of this petition and, therefore, I have directed my staff to act on this immediately.

My staff has indicated the review of NYSDEC's petition for a NDZ and, in accordance with federal regulations, is concurrently preparing to publish a tentative affirmative determination in the Federal Register in August 2011, provided that all the necessary information is in the petition. After publication, there will be a 30-day public comment period. Our goal is to finalize this determination shortly thereafter.

If you have further question, please let me know or your staff may contact Mike McGowan, Acting Chief for Intergovernmental & Community Affairs at (212) 637-4972.

Sincerely,

Judith A. Enck

Regional Administrator

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## **Bike to the Bridge Campaign**

August 2, 2011

BUFFALO, NY/FORT ERIE, ON – The Buffalo and Fort Erie Public Bridge Authority (Peace Bridge Authority) once again reminds local residents of the “Bike to the Bridge” campaign, which encourages non-vehicular border crossings and seeks to educate bicyclists and pedestrians on proper crossing procedures at the Peace Bridge facility. Such efforts include a combination of improved public outreach and information distribution, as well as continued promotion of current Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) document identification requirements.

“Every day at the Peace Bridge we welcome numerous bicyclists and pedestrians,” said Authority Chairman Anthony Annunziata. “And by educating additional area residents regarding border crossing identification

requirements and procedures, we hope to encourage many more travelers to go green and experience the truly breathtaking views available to them of Lake Erie, the Niagara River, and the City of Buffalo skyline.”

A suite of promotional materials supporting the “Bike to the Bridge” campaign are available at [www.peacebridge.com/biketothethebridge](http://www.peacebridge.com/biketothethebridge). Such items include an instructional video on “how to cross” the bridge by bicycle, downloadable maps and pamphlets with travel routes, a complete listing of necessary identification requirements, as well as reference links for respective Canadian and American Customs agencies.

The Authority’s commitment to engaging and educating the Southern Ontario and Western New York bicycling communities through the “Bike to the Bridge” effort was selected this past year by The League of American Bicyclists to receive an official support citation.

According to Bike League Director of Communications Meghan Cahill, “this Peace Bridge event is a great image for our cooperative vision and work to create more bicycle-friendly countries – a North America that recognizes the benefits of bicycling for the environment, personal health, and improving quality of life.”

For more information on the Peace Bridge Authority, visit [www.peacebridge.com](http://www.peacebridge.com).

The Buffalo and Fort Erie Public Bridge Authority, a binational authority, has owned and operated the Peace Bridge since 1933. The bridge, which was opened to traffic in 1927, spans the Niagara River between Fort Erie, Ontario, and Buffalo, New York, and is a key international border crossing. The Authority is governed by a 10 member board with an equal number of representatives from Canada and the United States. As an international compact and in accordance with its enabling legislation, the chairmanship alternates annually between Canada and the United States.

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## **Cross often? Make it simple, use NEXUS**

NEXUS is designed to expedite the border clearance process for low-risk, pre-approved travellers into Canada and the United States. <http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/prog/nexus/menu-eng.html>

**Embassy: Canada's Foreign Policy Newsweekly - <http://www.embassymag.ca/>**

### **C. Editorials/Columns**

#### **Living in Canada - Ottawa names war criminals in country Watertown Daily Times – August 5, 2011**

The Canadian government recently released photos and information of 30 suspected war criminals thought to be living in Canada. Analysts say that Canada is taking a tougher line against illegal immigration and refugee applications. Canadian immigration officials have indicated plans to revoke citizenship of 1,800 people who obtained their status through fraud, the Wall Street Journal reported. In asking for help rounding up the suspects, Immigration Minister Jason Kenney said: “Those who have been involved in war crimes or crimes against humanity will find no haven on our shores.” The alleged war criminals are from Africa — Somalia, Ghana and Nigeria — South Asia, Yugoslavia and Iraq. According to the Canadian government, they were “involved in activities that relate them to war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide.” Canada takes pride in its open immigration policies and has been criticized — by its own citizens and the United States — for being too lax in some respects. There is a move to align Washington and Ottawa’s border policies. How the suspects entered the country is key to determine whether procedures are failing. As one government spokesperson said,

“no system is foolproof.” There is nothing wrong with being open to immigrants. That reflects Canada’s outlook on the world. But keeping out dangerous war criminals, terrorists and people capable of doing harm to society should be part of the policy, too.

#### **D. Citizens Views (write-in letters)**

##### **A new border policy is needed for the 21st century - By Zachary Kushel and J. Ryan Lacey Buffalo News - August 1, 2011**

Recent polling data confirms what we already know: economic recovery and job creation remain the most important issues for Americans and New Yorkers. But, as the recent debate over the debt ceiling reminds us, policymakers in Washington have not yet fully heeded this lesson. In his 2010 State of the Union address, President Obama set the goal of doubling U. S. exports over the next five years to help spur the U. S. economy. Yet the plan to achieve this audacious goal, released last fall, barely mentioned Canada. If the administration is serious about growing exports, why is it not taking a serious look at expanding America’s largest export market? It is time the United States revisits its policy on the northern border. The assumption that there is a trade-off between security and trade has dominated thinking about the U. S.-Canada border in the post-9/11 world. Many view the current environment as a zero-sum game whereby bolstering one inevitably worsens the other. In actuality, current policies leave vast room for improvements in both security and trade. A paradigm shift in thinking about this shared border is necessary for both countries to maximize their security and economic interests in the 21st century. The security threats facing the United States and Canada are real, but the current line defense approach to border security is inadequate. As highlighted by a December 2010 U. S. Government Accountability Office report, the tightening of border requirements and increased enforcement measures at marked border crossings have achieved limited security gains and by no means provide a total security guarantee. Those with the desire and ingenuity to do so will find ways to penetrate any system predicated on a line defense. A more effective shared border policy must incorporate a layered approach. We must narrowly focus our unique enforcement powers at the physical border on critical threats while we move or remove other border functions. Increased information sharing, greater coordination between domestic security agencies and improved regulatory harmonization between the countries will reduce the necessary functions of the physical border. Shared border policy must facilitate trade, trust and openness between the countries. Only when leaders in Washington and Ottawa take on the political and logistical challenges to achieve a more integrated environment will the full potential of the world’s closest and most prosperous bilateral relationship be realized. Such a development would finally allow the economies of New York and other border states to also reach their full potentials. - *Zachary Kushel and J. Ryan Lacey recently completed their master’s thesis at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government on the U. S.-Canada border.*

##### **Rekindle FDR’s dream of cross-border relations -By Arthur Milnes Watertown Daily Times – August 1, 2011**

To say it has been a challenging summer for those of us in eastern Ontario and upper New York State who value cross-border trade, tourism and friendships, is an understatement. Since May 30, the day hypercharged Canadian border bureaucrats took it upon themselves to seize a Baldwinsville, N.Y., fisherman’s boat and levy a \$1,000 fine, the tensions over border regulations have been raised to high and dangerous levels. (One does hope that these Ontario-based civil servants receive New York State’s 2011 award for tourism promotion for all they have done to keep our American friends on their side of the border this summer! They have more than earned it.) In an era of passports demanded for all those entering the U.S. — including Americans returning from Canada — bad weather, a sluggish American economy, a high Canadian dollar and so much else, these tensions are exactly what both Ontario and New York state residents have not needed. In order to overcome the bad will that has been generated, it is time we rekindled the spirit exemplified by a piece of cross-border history our citizens in this area uniquely share. I speak of course about the opening of the international bridge at Ivy Lea by President Franklin Roosevelt and Prime Minister Mackenzie King in 1938. The Aug. 18 anniversary of this historic event and FDR’s grand speeches that day in Kingston and Clayton will soon be upon us. It would

do all of us well to recall the words the patrician-turned-politician from Hyde Park bequeathed us that day. “This bridge stands as an open door,” FDR said. “There will be no challenge at the border and no guard to ask a countersign. Where the boundary is crossed the only words must be, ‘Pass, friend.’” FDR also spoke that day about what he called “common sense,” something we have not seen a great deal of in recent years at the post 9-11 Canada-U.S. border. “It has always seemed to me that the best symbol of common sense is a bridge,” he said. “Common sense is sometimes slow in getting into action, and perhaps that is why we took so long to build this one. It is a particular pleasure to meet you (Prime Minister King) here, where a boundary is a gateway and not a wall. Between these islands an international gap has been spanned, as gaps usually are, by the exercise of ability, guided by cooperative common sense. I hope that all my countrymen will use it freely. I know they will find, as I have done today, and on many other occasions, a happy welcome on the Canadian shore, and forthright fellowship with neighbors who are also friends.” With the example of FDR and Mackenzie King on Aug. 18, 1938, to guide us, it is time for area residents — Americans and Canadians — to seize back our border from the bureaucrats, just as our past leaders did on that glorious day. Step one should be the striking of a joint-committee chaired by area Member of Parliament Gord Brown and Congressman Bill Owens to begin planning celebrations to mark the 75th anniversary of FDR’s visit in 2013. The leadership in bucking bureaucracies demonstrated by both these politicians (assisted of course by Sen. Bob Runciman and others) should be commended and celebrated. We must — and the work has to start now — ensure that on Aug. 18, 2013, the president of the United States, prime minister of Canada, governor of New York state and premier of Ontario, will walk across the bridge and meet in the middle as friends, colleagues, partners and neighbors. Official bilateral talks between these leaders should also take place that day. Kingston should host a luncheon for the leaders while Watertown should hold a dinner for them. There should be an academic conference in conjunction with these summits that examines Canadian-American relations held at Queen’s University that day. If Queen’s (where FDR received a degree on Aug. 18, 1938) is not interested, Jefferson Community College should seize the moment, or the good folks at SUNY Potsdam or St. Lawrence University. Area media like the Kingston Whig-Standard and Watertown Daily Times — along with local television and radio stations on both sides of the border — should pool resources and establish a bureau staffed by professional reporters. Events this summer have clearly demonstrated that we need to get to know each other again. Such a bureau would go a long way in overcoming misunderstandings about the border and re-establish links between our communities that have not been celebrated in recent years as they once were. Finally, area municipal governments in both Ontario and New York State (as well as the New York and Ontario legislatures) should bring forward motions this year to forever mark Aug. 18 as Franklin Roosevelt — Mackenzie King Cross-Border Friendship Day. Kingston and Watertown should spark these motions by passing their own immediately. - *Kingston’s Arthur Milnes is the editor of the nonprofit “In Roosevelt’s Bright Shadow,” a volume celebrating the visit of FDR to the area in 1938. The author served as research assistant to the Right Honorable Brian Mulroney on the 18th prime minister’s best-selling “Memoirs.”*