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### **REPORT:**

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

##### **Fortified security deters illegals Pittsburgh Tribune-Review - June 15, 2011**

The number of Border Patrol agents monitoring the nation's 5,500-mile border with Canada has jumped eightfold since 9/11, outpacing the rate of growth elsewhere and resulting in the seizure of more illegal drugs. But agents are catching fewer illegal immigrants in the vast areas between official ports of entry along the nation's borders. Customs and Border Protection officials say the staffing increase has deterred many from trying to enter the country illegally. "Over the last two years, the Department of Homeland Security has dedicated historic levels of personnel, infrastructure and technology to the northern border, as it has to the southwest border," U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Alan D. Bersin said in a statement. Before 9/11, about 300 agents patrolled the area between northern ports of entry. Today, there are about 2,300 agents on the line, according to federal statistics. The number of agents elsewhere more than doubled in the same span, from 8,906 in 2000 to 18,295 at the end of last fiscal year. About 95 percent of those are stationed on the nation's southwest border with Mexico, a hotbed for drug activity, violence and illegal immigration that tends to overshadow challenges elsewhere. The extra agents have helped boost the seizure of illegal drugs by about 80 percent -- both nationally and in the north -- since 2000, but the number of illegal immigrants apprehended has dropped. Nationally, agents nabbed 463,382 illegals last year, down from almost 1.7 million in 2000, statistics show. Of illegals apprehended last year, 7,431 were taken into custody along the northern border. A Pew Hispanic Center report released last year said the annual flow of illegal immigrants into the United States has fallen dramatically during the past decade. The center said about 850,000 people, on average, entered the country illegally each year from 2000 to 2005, but that number fell to 300,000 a year between 2007 and 2009. Robert Heibel, executive director of the Institute for Intelligence Studies at Erie's Mercyhurst College, agrees that added enforcement could be deterring illegal activity. "It acts as a deterrent to the nonprofessional," said Heibel, a former FBI deputy chief of counterterrorism. "How much of a deterrent it is to the professional, I question." Heibel said the agency is making strides in securing northern borders, which he views as critical. "Obviously, the threat from the north is less than from the south, but a threat is there," Heibel said. Erie-based agent Robert Signorino, who previously worked in Yuma, Ariz., agreed northern agents' role is critical. "Our job is just as important here as it is on the southwest border, even though the border there seems to get more attention from the media," Signorino said. "We have to remain just as vigilant." The Erie border patrol station is just seven years old. After starting with six agents, it has more than 30 today who work out of a \$5 million facility that opened last year. The government has spent \$720 million in federal stimulus money to improve facilities and technology along the borders, including a \$25 million project to build a facility in Sandusky, Ohio. Work started last week. "It helps us do our job more effectively and efficiently," Signorino said of the Erie facility. The agency had rented a facility in downtown Erie, but moved to an area just outside the city along Interstate 90 that has improved response times. The station, which also patrols two counties in western New York, has apprehended about 500 illegal immigrants a year in each of the past three years, 58 percent of them of Mexican origin. Bersin, in testimony last month before a Senate committee, said the northern border presents unique challenges. It is almost three times as long as the one in the Southwest, features the Great Lakes and other bodies of water, and has dramatic seasonal changes that affect the way agents and law breakers operate. For example, frozen lakes and rivers open up new paths to smugglers and others to use on foot, snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles, he said.

##### **Illegal aliens await deportation Watertown Daily Times – June 10, 2011**

Two illegal aliens who were waiting near Alexandria Bay for a boat ride to Canada early Monday apparently were not being assisted by an organized human-smuggling operation, according to a U.S. Border Patrol officer stationed at Wellesley Island. The two men, from the eastern Europe nation of Georgia, and a Canadian who was assisting them were taken into custody shortly after midnight after the Border Patrol received a suspicious-vehicle report, according to Officer David Bova. They are in "administrative custody" awaiting deportation proceedings in Buffalo, he said. No criminal charges are anticipated, Mr. Bova said, so the three were not identified. After the Border Patrol learned what the three men were waiting for, a watercraft from Canada, authorities in Canada were alerted, and three other men were taken into custody near Lansdowne, Ontario. Based on interviews conducted with the suspects, the smuggling effort was determined to be an isolated incident, Mr. Bova said. One of the Georgians had arrived in the United States legally in 2002 with a visitor's visa, but he overstayed the tenure of the visa, Mr. Bova said. The second man had entered the country illegally at an unspecified time along the Mexican border, he said. Mr. Bova added that he is unable to confirm whether the two men are related. The illegal-alien interception was coincidental to another case handled the same day by the Border Patrol at Ogdensburg. Three people were taken into custody at a checkpoint on Route 11 in the town of Rossie and, unlike the Alexandria Bay case, they are facing criminal prosecution on illegal-alien charges.

### **Marijuana Trafficking Ring Raided By Police** **Watertown Daily Times – June 15, 2011**

More than 500 police officers descended upon Akwesasne and Kanewasake territories in Quebec, as well as Montreal and the North Shore regions, on Tuesday targeting a marijuana trafficking ring. According to information supplied by Royal Canadian Mounted Police Cpl. Caroline Letang, the roundup included 13 searches and resulted in the arrest of approximately 40 people, including 38 who were wanted on active warrants. More arrests are likely. The officers also seized drugs, firearms, cash and a hydroponic greenhouse on the premises. The members of the network face a number of charges, including drug possession for the purpose of trafficking, drug trafficking and conspiracy. RCMP and the Sûreté du Québec, assisted by the First Nations Police of Quebec and the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service, conducted the operation. The investigation, dubbed Project CONNECTIVITY, was launched by Canada's Aboriginal Combined Special Enforcement Unit in January 2010 to address the concerns of the Aboriginal community in the affected area. RCMP says the investigation shed light on an organization known for its involvement in drug trafficking and cultivation of marijuana. According to the investigation, Tyron Canatonquin, Kanewasake, has been identified as the leader of the organization. The organization used various sources as suppliers, and a number of brokers acted on behalf of Mr. Canatonquin. Several key players in the organization or in cells linked to the organization were identified. Criminal groups associated with him were able to take advantage of the community and status of Aboriginal territories, the Canadian equivalent of the U.S. reservations, to commit illegal acts. The illegal activity in which the targeted criminal organization engaged involved the use of violence and intimidation and had a negative impact on the local residents, RCMP officials said.

### **Truck Catches Fire Near Bridge** **Watertown Daily Times - June 15, 2011**

A tractor-trailer truck bound for Canada and carrying a cargo of lawn fertilizer caught fire Tuesday as it approached the Ogdensburg-Prescott International Bridge, causing an estimated \$40,000 in damage to the trailer and the cab's rear axle. The driver of the truck was uninjured, but Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority Executive Director Wade A. Davis said a toll collector was transported in an authority vehicle to Claxton-Hepburn Medical Center as a "precautionary measure." "If you've ever been near a truck when that happens, it's like a cannon going off in your ear at close range," he said. Mr. Davis declined to name the toll collector. The truck, operated by Montreal Express and driven by Jacques Raymond of St. Laurent, Quebec, was carrying 20 pallets of Lime-Rite, a lawn fertilizer. It had just cleared the toll booth after 10 a.m. when a passing motorist noticed smoke underneath the cab. Ogdensburg Fire Capt. Gerald F. Bova said the truck pulled off the road. He said that fire appeared to be caused by overheated brakes. Three or four of the pallets were damaged by the fire. The trailer sustained the heaviest fire damage. Ogdensburg firefighters were at the scene until just before noon. Northbound bridge traffic was delayed and rerouted to nearby Commerce Park until it was allowed to cross the bridge at approximately 11:30 a.m. Southbound crossing was uninterrupted.

### **Importance of managing supply chain stressed**

## **Plattsburgh Press Republican - June 6, 2011**

More and more top executives are understanding the vital importance of supply-chain management. That point was made by Rick Blasgen, president and CEO of the Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals, in the opening presentation at the 2011 Global Supply Chain Management Conference, hosted recently by Plattsburgh State. The conference focused on efforts to better manage the flow of needed supplies in and out of companies to increase efficiency and save money.

RISING COSTS - "Supply-chain management is receiving more attention from senior management," he said. One reason is experts in the field are explaining its importance in ways the CEOs can understand, Blasgen said. Another is the vast amount of money it involves. He said supply-chain costs in the United States were about \$1.09 trillion in 2010, which is 7.7 percent of the nation's gross domestic product. Better technology and shared best practices have made the United States a leader in the field, Blasgen said. In other major economies worldwide, that percentage ranges from 11 percent to 20 percent. He said supply-chain costs have increased about 187 percent since 1988, with an average annual increase of about \$24 billion. There was an aberration in 2009, when costs decreased dramatically due to the global recession.

GOOD FIELD - CEOs of companies are most concerned about revenue, cash flow, profitability and market share, Blasgen said, and supply-chain management can influence all of those areas. The most successful companies, such as Walmart, are those with operations that best manage their supply chains. The stature and recognition of experts in supply-change management is on the rise because of that, Blasgen said. "It's a great time to be in that field." More and more companies will be outsourcing supply-chain management in the future, he said, because it is seen as a way to keep the company lean.

GLOBAL DECISIONS - Dr. Jacques Roy, director of CHAINE, a supply-chain management research group, presented a Canadian perspective on the issue. Canada faces many of the same challenges as the United States, he said. "I think it is very interesting that we are seeing many of the same types of issues across both countries." He presented a study done by Industry Canada, in partnership with Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters and the Supply Chain and Logistics Association of Canada. Companies were asked if their supply-chain decisions were made locally or by a parent company. "A significant number of companies said the decisions were made on a continental basis," Roy said.

ROAD TO SUCCESS - He said Canadian companies tend to lag well behind in outsourcing their supply-chain activities, compared to the United States. One reason, Roy said, could be that Canada tends to have higher prices than its neighbor to the south. One of the key findings was that there has been a 106-percent increase in distribution centers in Canada in the last 5 years. That part of the industry has grown in value from \$674 million to \$1.4 billion. Best-in-class practices in the distribution field include investments in warehouse management systems, process training and technology training. Roy said the top 20 percent of successful companies are the ones who were most likely to invest in supply-chain strategies and innovations, such as the use of electronic devices to share data with key suppliers and customers. Advanced communication technology is the most adopted process across all sub-sectors of the supply-chain-management industry, he said.

## **Officials discuss cross-border efforts** **Watertown Daily Times – June 12, 2011**

Officials from the north country and Kingston, Ontario, gathered Friday at Remington Park to network and discuss ways to share assets and collaborate on projects. "Whenever we think regionally, we don't think 'cross-border,'" Kingston Mayor J. Mark Gerretsen said. "Why duplicate a lot of the other stuff when someone else in the region offers it?" Assets for north country residents include the trauma center at Kingston General Hospital. And Kingston officials say their residents would benefit from upcoming American Airlines service from Watertown International Airport, Dexter, to Chicago's O'Hare International Airport, a major hub. Aside from Kingston/Norman Rogers Airport, which has Air Canada service to Toronto Pearson International Airport, "the closest airport on the Canadian side to Kingston is two hours away, so there's a real opportunity there for people to fly into Watertown," Mr. Gerretsen said.

He noted the drive time between the Kingston area and Watertown International is less than an hour. The two cities are connected by the Thousand Islands Bridge, as well as Horne's Ferry between Cape Vincent and Wolfe Island. The conference is the second this year. Efforts for cross-border collaboration are pushed by Kingston officials and the office of Assemblywoman Addie J. Russell, D-Theresa. The idea to increase cooperation came during old-time baseball games at Can-Am festivals at Sackets Harbor where Mark A. Pacilio, chief of staff for Mrs. Russell, and Alan C. McLeod, senior legal counsel for the city of Kingston, got to know each other. Since

their last meeting in January, Drum Country Business — an effort to promote the Fort Drum region to companies — has been rolled out, and Mrs. Russell said she would like to see Canadian communities take part to further the campaign's reach. "They can do something similar and team up, really, with a mirror of this type of economic collaboration and economic development," she said. The communities also can capitalize on each other's tourism — especially with the upcoming bicentennial of the War of 1812 — according to Mr. McLeod. Maj. Steven Champ, a representative from Canadian Forces Base, Kingston, said that military families there, like those on Fort Drum, often are looking for inexpensive day trips. "The opportunities to pull people and families away in either direction, I think, have some great advertising and marketing ability," he said. "With the right type of events or the right type of draw, there should be cross traffic going." Mr. Gerretsen said he believes partnerships can only strengthen economic efforts. "In this day and age, we have to start looking at things regionally, so when we promote a region, we're going to be much more successful because we will have so much more to offer individuals," he said.

### **Canada's unemployment rate falls to 7.4 percent** **Buffalo News - June 10, 2011**

Canada's unemployment rate fell to its the lowest level in more than two years as a combination more jobs and fewer people actively seeking work in May pushed the rate to 7.4 percent. Statistics Canada said Friday 22,300 new jobs were created last month, slightly above consensus following the previous month's strong 58,000 gain. The last time Canada's unemployment rate was as low as 7.4 percent was in January 2009, a few months after the economy had been plunged into the deep global recession. But the government agency notes the jobless rate dropped two-tenths of a point as much on the fact that fewer Canadians are actively looking for work - 27,500 fewer - than specifically on outright employment gains. Canada's economy is doing far better than its southern neighbor, which in the same month created only 54,000 jobs, a small amount given the size of the U.S. labor force. In the past year, Canada has more than recouped all the jobs lost during the 2008-2009 recession, creating 273,000 in the last 12 months alone. Meanwhile, the U.S. remains several million shy of its pre-crisis level and the jobless rate is above 9 percent.

### **Local malls more bull than bear** **Rochester Democrat & Chronicle - June 11, 2011**

It's a bit of a puzzle. Though economic news in the past month has ranged from dismal to dire, local shopping malls are reporting good numbers and busy retailers. The parking lots at Eastview Mall in Victor, The Marketplace in Henrietta, The Mall at Greece Ridge and smaller concentrations of retailers in the region have a bustle that belies talk of a double-dip recession. The reasons, according to mall officials, have a little to do with Rochester and upstate New York and a little to do with Canada. "This year hasn't been spectacular, but we've been up 3 percent to 4 percent in sales every month and we're looking at a little over 3 percent for the year," said Eastview general manager Mike Kauffman. "My sense is that our retailers have held up well this year." Kauffman said the retail numbers reflect the stability of the Rochester and upstate economies, which haven't seen boom times in generations, but haven't experienced the post-boom declines still roiling many other parts of the country. Because of stiff state taxes, gasoline prices are high in New York. But food price spikes have been relatively moderate and local housing is among the nation's most affordable. The regional unemployment rate in April was 7.2 percent, well under the national figure of 9 percent. Upstate consumer confidence is weak, according to a survey released last week by the Siena College Research Institute. But in measuring retail buying plans, the survey tracks big-ticket items such as homes, cars and electronics, and not the smaller items typically purchased at malls. "People might be buying at that level," Siena director Douglas Lonnstrom acknowledged. "But a 3 or 4 percent improvement (at the malls) has to be measured against 2009 and 2010, which were bad years. Kauffman agreed that the malls and retailers in general are trying to climb out of a pretty large hole caused by the recession of 2007-09. "We're certainly not back to 2006 numbers," he said. Still, the solid performance at local malls compared to other, more economically stressed regions has attracted the interest of large retailers like Von Maur Inc. and Nordstrom Inc., both of which are mid- to high-end specialty chain department stores that often serve as mall anchors. Von Maur is based in Davenport, Iowa, and Nordstrom in Seattle. They like the economic positives of the Rochester region, but have concerns about its size. "We're mid-sized, and these retailers like to go where the population numbers are higher," said Dennis Wilmot, vice president of leasing and development for Wilmorite Management Group. Wilmorite, which owns the region's three largest malls, has been on a growth track for several years. Eastview added a new wing, restaurants and

high-end retailers in 2003, and in 2008 announced plans for a \$50 million upgrade over the next five to seven years. The idea is to expand the mall footprint and attract big-time stores. The Marketplace is in the midst of an upgrade, bringing in new stores and adding a children's play area. Expansion-related announcements are expected soon at Greece Ridge. The growth is geared to make the malls more appealing to a wide range of retailers, Wilmot said. "It's the other side of the economy story that isn't told very much around here and that's that this region's retail picture has been strong," Wilmot aid. "The L.L. Bean people are very happy with their investment here (at Eastview) and told me that 10 percent to 15 percent of their shoppers are coming from Canada." The Canada connection is bolstered when a community such as Rochester offers retailers that can't be found north of the border. And it's bolstered still more when the Canada-U.S. currency exchange rate favors the Canadian traveler, as is now the case. Greg Marshall, VisitRochester's senior vice president and marketing director, said retailers of all stripes continue to remark on the number of Canadian visitors they're seeing. VisitRochester, Monroe County's tourism agency, has a marketing campaign aimed at Canadians. "It's not a good time for much of the economy, but for Canadian visitors to Rochester, it is a good time," Marshall said. Von Maur is based in Davenport, Iowa, and Nordstrom in Seattle. They like the economic positives of the Rochester region, but have concerns about its size. "We're mid-sized, and these retailers like to go where the population numbers are higher," said Dennis Wilmot, vice president of leasing and development for Wilmorite Management Group. Wilmorite, which owns the region's three largest malls, has been on a growth track for several years. Eastview added a new wing, restaurants and high-end retailers in 2003, and in 2008 announced plans for a \$50 million upgrade over the next five to seven years. The idea is to expand the mall footprint and attract big-time stores. The Marketplace is in the midst of an upgrade, bringing in new stores and adding a children's play area. Expansion-related announcements are expected soon at Greece Ridge. The growth is geared to make the malls more appealing to a wide range of retailers, Wilmot said. "It's the other side of the economy story that isn't told very much around here and that's that this region's retail picture has been strong," Wilmot aid. "The L.L. Bean people are very happy with their investment here (at Eastview) and told me that 10 percent to 15 percent of their shoppers are coming from Canada." The Canada connection is bolstered when a community such as Rochester offers retailers that can't be found north of the border. And it's bolstered still more when the Canada-U.S. currency exchange rate favors the Canadian traveler, as is now the case. Greg Marshall, VisitRochester's senior vice president and marketing director, said retailers of all stripes continue to remark on the number of Canadian visitors they're seeing. VisitRochester, Monroe County's tourism agency, has a marketing campaign aimed at Canadians. "It's not a good time for much of the economy, but for Canadian visitors to Rochester, it is a good time," Marshall said.

**Tragically Hip rolling into town**  
**Watertown Daily Times – June 13, 2011**

The DPAO/Toyota Summer Concert Series open its four concerts June 24 with a band consisting of five friends who started out playing in the clubs of their hometown of Kingston, Ontario. The Tragically Hip came together in 1983 in Kingston when childhood friends Rob Baker, Gordon Downie, Johnny Fay, Paul Langlois and Gord Sinclair started making music together. The Hip, as the band is known by its fans, is noted for its energetic live performances. The Hip has established a demanding concert itinerary, touring extensively in Canada, the U.S., Europe and Australia. The band's management said members were not giving press interviews. The group released its first album, "The Tragically Hip," in 1987 and has since released 12 studio albums. The band has won 14 Juno awards (U.S. Grammy equivalent) and was inducted into the Canadian Music Hall of Fame in 2005. The Tragically Hip has received the Order of Canada, as well as honorary degrees from the Royal Conservatory of Music. The band's latest album is "We Are the Same." An album review by Brad Frenette of Toronto-based National Post noted songs on the album at times explore "rural terrains — referencing Canada geese, farming, canoes and being under the stars." "This album is sweeping and lush, with horns and violins; yet from the lovely opener 'Morning Moon,' it retains a folksy, country charm," Mr. Frenette wrote. Opening for the Tragically Hip will be the Nova Scotia band the Trews. The group recently toured with Kid Rock in Canada. Its song "Hope & Ruin" was used by CBC-TV as part of its National Hockey League playoff coverage this year. The song is the title track from the band's fourth studio album, released in June. The Trews will release "Live from Montreal" exclusively through iTunes on June 21. It records the first time the band performed selections of new material from "Hope & Ruin." "I think you can feel the freshness and the enthusiasm for the new material as well as a sense of discovery of these songs growing into our live set from what they were on the record," Trews member John Angus said in a release.

THE DETAILS

WHAT: The Tragically Hip, performing in the Disabled Persons Action Organization/Toyota Summer Concert Series, with opening act the Trews.

WHEN/WHERE: 7 p.m. June 24 at the baseball diamond at Alex T. Duffy Fairgrounds, Coffeen Street, Watertown. Gates open at 5.

COST: \$76 reserved standing tickets are sold out. Tickets for general admission are \$66. Tickets are available at north country Kinney Drugs stores and at DPAO's website, [www.dpao.org](http://www.dpao.org)

**EPA objects to proposed oil pipeline from Canada**  
**Buffalo News - June 7, 2011**

The Environmental Protection Agency is raising new objections to a proposed pipeline that would carry oil from western Canada to the Texas Gulf Coast. In a letter to the State Department, the EPA said it remains concerned about the risk of oil spills that could affect drinking water and sensitive ecosystems, as well as the effect of greenhouse gas emissions associated with the \$7 billion Keystone XL pipeline. The EPA said that despite two lengthy reports, the State Department still has not done sufficient analysis of the project's impact on the environment. The letter urged State to conduct a more thorough analysis of oil spill risks and alternative pipeline routes. Until those concerns are addressed, the EPA said it will rate the project as "environmental objections - insufficient information." "Pipeline oil spills are a very real concern," Cynthia Giles, EPA's assistant administrator for enforcement and compliance assurance, wrote. Giles cited major pipeline spills last year in Michigan and Illinois, as well as two leaks last month in the Keystone pipeline, a 1,300-mile line owned by the same company that wants to build Keystone XL. The U.S. pipeline safety agency briefly blocked Calgary-based TransCanada from restarting the Keystone pipeline last week because of safety concerns. The recent leaks "underscore the need to carefully consider both the route of the proposed Keystone XL Pipeline and appropriate measures to prevent and detect a spill," Giles wrote in the letter dated Monday. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton has authority over Keystone XL because the 1,900-mile project crosses the U.S. border. The new pipeline would carry crude oil extracted from tar sands in Alberta, Canada, to the Gulf of Mexico, traveling through Montana, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma before reaching refineries in Houston and Port Arthur, Texas. The project would double the capacity of the existing Keystone pipeline, which runs from North Dakota to Oklahoma and Illinois. Supporters say the two projects could significantly reduce U.S. dependence on Middle Eastern oil. Environmental groups cheered the EPA letter, which they said highlighted the possible environmental destruction the pipeline could cause. "With this rating, the EPA is standing up for the people who would be hurt by the Keystone XL pipeline, including Midwest farmers and low-income people around Texas refineries," Alex Moore, dirty fuels campaigner at Friends of the Earth, an environmental group, said Tuesday. "All eyes are on Secretary of State Clinton," Moore added. "Will she comply with the law and ensure that these impacts are studied or not?" U.S. officials have pledged to decide on the pipeline project by the end of the year, although the State Department said this week it would hold public meetings on the proposal in Montana, South Dakota, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas and Washington, D.C. The State Department released a second environmental study on the project in April, concluding that no new issues had been revealed since a similar report was completed last year. Environmental groups said the report glossed over crucial issues such as pipeline safety and the risks posed by the proposed route over the massive Ogallala Aquifer, which supplies drinking water to people in eight states. The American Petroleum Institute, the oil's industry top lobbying group, said Keystone XL would create thousands of jobs and prevent China and other nations from tapping into the vast resources of the Alberta tar sands. "Other nations will aggressively develop this key strategic resource for their future energy needs if we fail to act," API chief executive officer Jack Gerard said in a letter to Clinton. Republican lawmakers and other project supporters have warned that if the pipeline is not built, Canada will construct alternative routes to the West Coast and ship oil sands crude to China and other parts of Asia. \_\_\_\_  
Online: EPA letter: [www.epa.gov/compliance/nepa/eisdata.html](http://www.epa.gov/compliance/nepa/eisdata.html)

**Universities sponsor seminar on US-Canada relation**  
**Buffalo News - June 13, 2011**

Universities on both sides of the border are teaming up on a seminar to explore U.S.-Canada relations. The five-day event begins Monday. It was put together by the University at Buffalo and Brock University in Ontario. The seminar's not open to the public. Instead, it's aimed at educating legislative and political staff members of federal, state and local governments. Among issues to be explored will be the shared governance of the Great

Lakes, differences in the countries' political systems and trade. Sessions will take place on both sides of the border.

## B. **Border Communications**

### **CBSA introduces the first Aboriginal Liaison Officer in Cornwall**

**Cornwall, Ontario, June 15, 2011** – The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) today formally introduced J.D. (James) Marchand as its first Aboriginal Liaison Officer in Cornwall.

Marchand, who previously worked for the CBSA at the Sault Ste. Marie port of entry, is the first border services officer in Canada to occupy the position of ALO. He brings a wealth of knowledge about the CBSA and Aboriginal culture to the position, which will assist him during his two-year assignment in Cornwall.

Marchand has an extensive background in law enforcement having worked for the University of Waterloo Police Services, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and the Aboriginal Initiatives Branch of the Correctional Service of Canada. He is also a representative of the Public Service Alliance of Canada as the Ontario representative for the National Aboriginal Peoples Circle and the Aboriginal representative on the Ontario Regional Council.

The ALO will work with the community to provide outreach and information services about the CBSA and assist Akwesasne community members with concerns involving border-related issues.

The CBSA would like to thank the members of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne for their assistance on the development of the ALO position and for their hard work on the joint selection committee that chose J.D. Marchand as the successful candidate.

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### **Lansdowne Port of Entry NEXUS lane temporarily closed due to construction**

**Lansdowne, Ontario, June 11, 2011** – Effective June 13, 2011, the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) will temporarily close the NEXUS lane at the Lansdowne Port of Entry due to construction.

The NEXUS lane will reopen as soon as the construction has been completed (date to be confirmed).

The lane normally dedicated to NEXUS will be used to process commercial vehicles during the construction period. The construction is necessary to repair a commercial truck primary inspection line (PIL) booth that was damaged in an accident last week.

The CBSA regrets any inconvenience to NEXUS program users.

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### **CBP Law Enforcement Personnel Carry the Flame of Hope in Buffalo and Northern New York**

(Tuesday, June 07, 2011)

**Buffalo, N.Y.** -- The United States Border Patrol, Wellesley Island Station, hosted the 25th anniversary Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run Saturday, June 4, when the New York State Special Olympics 'Flame of Hope' journeyed through the Thousand Islands Region of northern New York.

The event began with a lighting ceremony at Tibbett's Point Lighthouse in Cape Vincent and the "Flame of Hope" was carried for 24 miles by runners along routes 12E and 12 through the villages of Cape Vincent and Clayton to Grass Point State Park in the Town of Orleans.

"Once again, the Thousand Islands Region Law Enforcement Torch Run was a resounding success," said Patrol Agent in Charge Matthew Roggow. "Members of CBP, ICE, TSA, and many state, local and Canadian law enforcement agencies demonstrated their camaraderie and esprit de corps in a truly enriching event benefiting the Special Olympics of New York."

Forty agents from the Buffalo and Niagara Falls stations and Sector office carried the "Flame of Hope" on Friday, June 3, as they ran the 'College Leg' of the Torch Run event, a four-mile jog along Main Street from Canisius College to the University at Buffalo, South Campus.

"I was very pleased at the turnout for the 2011 Torch Run," said Supervisory Border Patrol Agent Jeff Wilson. "In all, the Border Patrol raised more than \$1,200 from donations and shirt sales. Buffalo Sector agents should be proud of the way they represented the western New York law enforcement community."

The Law Enforcement Torch Run precedes the New York State Summer Olympic Games, which will be held June 10-11 in Utica, NY.

*U.S. Customs and Border Protection is the unified border agency within the Department of Homeland Security charged with the management, control and protection of our nation's borders at and between the official ports of entry. CBP is charged with keeping terrorists and terrorist weapons out of the country while enforcing hundreds of U.S. laws.*

## **CBP Officers Arrest Impostor Arriving on Train**

(Wednesday, June 08, 2011)

**Niagara Falls, N.Y.** - U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Field Operations arrested a United States citizen at the Niagara Falls train station on June 7 on charges of false statements and misuse of a passport.

CBP officers encountered a female that presented herself as a 29-year-old United States citizen at the Niagara Falls train station in Niagara Falls, N.Y. The subject stated she had visited Toronto for two weeks and that she was returning to her home in Illinois. The subject presented a valid United States passport and claimed to be a United States citizen, however, the inspecting CBP Officer noticed discrepancies between the subject's physical characteristics and the photo in the presented passport. The subject was referred to CBP secondary for verification of her identity.

During the secondary exam, CBP officers performed an identity search using the subject's fingerprints. This search returned the true identity of the subject as Aranka Moro, a 34-year-old, United States citizen. The search also revealed that Ms. Moro had numerous warrants for her arrest on charges of racketeering and theft from around the United States. When confronted with this information, Ms. Moro admitted that the passport was not hers and that she attempted to use it because she was aware of the existing warrants.

Ms. Moro was arrested by CBP officers and charged with false statements and misuse of a passport. Ms. Moro is currently being detained at the Niagara County Jail pending prosecution by the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of New York.

*U.S. Customs and Border Protection is the unified border agency within the Department of Homeland Security charged with the management, control and protection of our nation's borders at and between the official ports of entry. CBP is charged with keeping terrorists and terrorist weapons out of the country while enforcing hundreds of U.S. laws.*

## **CBP in Erie to Participate in Community Boating Day**

(Friday, June 10, 2011)

**Erie, Pa.** – U.S. Customs and Border Protection in Erie will participate in the annual Erie Safe Boating Day on June 11 at Liberty Park located on the bayfront from 9 a.m. until noon. CBP officers and Border Patrol agents will provide information on international pleasure boat reporting requirements, including the new Small Vessel Reporting System (SVRS) and answer questions from the local maritime community. Lake Erie is home to thousands of pleasure boaters who gravitate to the area for popular steelhead trout fishing and bass fishing tournaments.

“We have participated in this event in years past and it has always been a great way to meet Lake Erie boaters and remind them of reporting requirements. This event also provides us with a good opportunity to educate boaters regarding the online SVRS,” said Steven Artino, Acting CBP Chicago Director, Office of Field Operations. “SVRS is a win-win because it adds security for CBP law enforcement purposes and is also a convenient and faster tool for boaters visiting Canada to pre-register with CBP to obtain an expedited clearance back into the United States.”

SVRS is open to all U.S. citizens and permanent residents, as well as Canadian citizens, Canadian landed commonwealth residents and Canadian landed immigrants who are nationals of a Visa Waiver Program country who have a valid passport and an Electronic System for Travel Authorization; or hold a U.S. visa for admittance, a valid passport, and a CBP Form I-94. Boat owners and passengers can fill out an online application and schedule a visit to an enrollment center near them to apply to the program. Boat owners or passengers who are currently members of a CBP Trusted Traveler Program (e.g., NEXUS or Global Entry), or who hold a current form I-68, can enroll without visiting an enrollment center.

For more information on SVRS or to begin the registration process, visit ([www.cbp.gov/svrs](http://www.cbp.gov/svrs))

This year's event marks the 5th annual Erie Safe Boating Day sponsored by the Erie Safe Boating Task Force and Pennsylvania Fish and Game Commission. In addition to CBP, various law enforcement and rescue organizations have been invited to attend including U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, and fire and water rescue agencies.

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JUNE 13, 2011  
PLATTSBURGH, NY

## **Canadian convicted of importing car-load of marijuana *Man was attempting to enter the U.S. from Canada***

PLATTSBURGH, N.Y. - A federal jury on Thursday found Michel Perreault, 48, of Laval, Quebec, guilty of attempted importation of marijuana and possession with intent to distribute marijuana. The case was investigated U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

Perreault was arrested on Feb. 16, 2011, after he was discovered to be driving a rental car loaded with approximately 44 pounds of marijuana while attempting to enter the United States at the Champlain Port of Entry. The marijuana was packed into the vehicle's frame and was detected during a 7-point inspection after Perreault was referred for a secondary inspection. While the defense asserted that Perreault was unaware of the marijuana he was transporting, the jury issued guilty verdicts on both counts after only 40 minutes of deliberation.

"HSI and our federal law enforcement partners are determined to disrupt the flow of drugs into the United States," said Lev J. Kubiak, special agent in charge of ICE HSI in Buffalo. "HSI has and will continue to utilize its broad authorities to target those individuals that thumb their noses at the law and pose direct threats to our communities."

Perreault faces a maximum penalty of up to five years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, or both, and a period of at least two years supervised release up to life to follow any term of imprisonment on Count 1 of the indictment, and a maximum penalty of up to five years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, or both, and a period of at least two years supervised release up to life to follow any term of imprisonment on Count 2.

Perreault is in U.S. Marshals' custody and is scheduled to be sentenced in August 2011.

## **Reps. Higgins And Hochul Introduce Legislation Aimed At Easing Cost Of Passport Purchases**

*WNY Congressmembers Say Proposals Encourage Cross-Border Travel*

Jun 10, 2011 Issues: Fiscal Responsibility, National Security

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – Congressmembers Brian Higgins (NY-27) and Kathy Hochul (NY-26) today announced plans to introduce two pieces of legislation aimed at easing the costs associated with obtaining a passport. The issue is especially important to the two Members who both serve on the House Committee on Homeland Security and represent the Western New York community, which is home to four U.S.-Canada border crossings.

"For residents in Western New York traveling to southern Ontario to work, shop and visit is as seamless as crossing the street to your neighbor's house," said Congressman Higgins, who also serves on the Northern Border Caucus. "This cross border flow represents good paying jobs to both Canadian and U.S. citizens but families and businesses along the border disproportionately bear the cost of obtaining passports for everyday activities and business. National security is a concern to all Americans but the cost of complying with our security measures should not be borne by predominantly border communities."

"As a former Erie County Clerk I am very aware of the high costs associated with obtaining passports," said Congresswoman Hochul. "I helped process thousands of passports that cost Western New Yorkers upwards of \$100 each. These prices are far too high for residents who travel across the border day after day for work and pleasure. We need to save Western New Yorkers every penny we can and these two bills will help bear much of the costs associated with obtaining a passport."

Next week Higgins and Hochul will co-sponsor and introduce the Passport Fee Relief Act and the Passport Acquisition Savings and Security Act which would help provide U.S. residents with affordable access to passports for both business and personal travel.

The **Passport Fee Relief Act** would provide a refundable tax credit to those obtaining a passport and passport card. Under the bill, residents would be reimbursed through their tax filings for the cost of the passport application fee which, when purchasing a passport book and card, totals \$140.

The **Passport Acquisition Savings and Security (PASS) Act** would tie the fees charged for passports to the actual cost of producing and administering the passport program. Currently, over half of the fees and surcharges collected are returned to the treasury as general revenues and do not correspond with the cost to the government for providing these services. Under the Higgins/ Hochul bill, the State Department must set the passport fee no higher than the cost of administering the passport program. Currently, a significant portion of Americans' passport fees goes to the general Treasury.

U.S.-Canadian trade accounts for 500,000 jobs in New York alone and presents over \$535 billion in merchandise trade annually.

The number of Americans obtaining a passport since 1974 has increased more than 300% due, in part, to the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) instituted post-9/11, which requires all travelers to present a passport when entering the United States. Last year, the U.S. State Department issued over 13.8 million passports including nearly

1.6 million passport cards. New Yorkers ranked among the top three in terms of passport demand, with over 1.1 million issued to state residents in 2010 alone.

This isn't the first time Higgins and Hochul have worked together on the issue of passport costs. In February, Congressman Higgins and then-Erie County Clerk Hochul jointly opposed the U.S. State Department's proposed Passport fee increases.



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Boundary Water Treaty Centennial Celebrations To Be Commemorated With Special Plaque Unveiling**

For Immediate Release: June 14, 2011

Niagara Falls, Ontario – A ceremony will be held in Niagara Falls, Ontario this Friday, June 17 to unveil a replica of a commemorative plaque marking the Centennial celebrations of the 1909 Boundary Waters Treaty.

The unveiling of this replica plaque – the actual 200-pound-plus, bronze version of which will soon be placed on Niagara Parks Commission lands – will take place at the conclusion of a session the Niagara 10 is holding on the final day of the 2011 Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Conference in Niagara Falls, Ontario.

The Niagara 10, representing the 10 cities, towns and villages, including Niagara Region and the Counties of Erie and Niagara, all bordering the Ontario and New York shores of the Niagara River, played a lead role in encouraging the International Joint Commission to hold the Centennial celebrations in this region two years ago.

Those celebrations, for a first-of-a-kind Treaty that remains a model around the world to this day for resolving trans-boundary environmental concerns, took place over 10 days in June of 2009 and included a ceremony on the Rainbow Bridge attended by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, then-Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs Lawrence Cannon, the Canadian and U.S. Chairs of the International Joint Commission, and numerous other federal, provincial, state and municipal delegates from both sides of the border.

“The Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909 is perhaps the most important agreement between Canada and the United States in that it has fostered cooperation on shared water resources on the basis of equality for over a century,” says Joe Comuzzi, Chair of the Canadian section of the International Joint Commission, who will be participating in Friday's plaque unveiling.

“There can be no better place to locate this commemorative plaque than within the confines of Niagara Parks, a provincial agency tasked with the stewardship responsibilities of protecting and showcasing the unique natural and cultural heritage, which is found all along the Niagara River,” says the Niagara Park Commission's Chair, Fay Booker, who will also be speaking at the unveiling ceremony. “We are pleased to accept this plaque and we will locate it in a place of prominence that overlooks this shared natural resource, the Rainbow Bridge which joins our two nations and Oakes Garden Theater, the site where several of the anniversary celebrations took place.”

The Centennial celebrations were sponsored by Ontario Power Generation and the New York Power Authority, and the unveiling ceremony will take place on Friday, June 17 in the Grand Oaks Ballroom, Marriott Gateway on the Falls (formerly Sheraton Fallsview) located at 6755 Fallsview Blvd. in Niagara Falls, Ontario at 11:25 a.m.

Guests to participate in the ceremony include, Niagara Falls Bridge Commission Chairman Patrick Brown, Niagara Regional Chair Gary Burroughs, Niagara Parks Commission Chairwoman Fay Booker, Canadian Chair of the International Joint Commission, Joe Comuzzi, United States Consul General Kevin Johnson, and Ontario Power Generation, Niagara Plant Manager Mike Martelli.

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Contact: Mary Stack, Director of Communications, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority  
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*A similar plaque will be unveiled in Niagara Falls New York on the same day at Centennial Circle at 3:30 pm.*

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

### Council of Atlantic Premiers Addresses Regional Issues

The Council of Atlantic Premiers met May 16 in Sussex, New Brunswick. Premiers Darrell Dexter of Nova Scotia, David Alward of New Brunswick, Robert Ghiz of Prince Edward Island and Kathy Dunderdale of Newfoundland discussed a variety of issues of regional concern.

Among the topics addressed were improving efficient delivery of government services, health care, clean energy development and federal transfer payments to the provinces.

With respect to government services, the premiers committed to working together to improve delivery while reducing paperwork and costs to taxpayers. Combining procurements was discussed as an important strategy and they directed their respective ministers to “identify and pursue joint procurement opportunities” where appropriate.

Regarding energy, the premiers noted the effort to explore integration of provincial transmission systems through the Atlantic Energy Gateway initiative and to move forward with development of renewable energy sources. They also called on the federal government to provide funding support for Phase 1 of the Lower Churchill project and to approve Prince Edward Island's funding application for the Northumberland Strait Cable Project.

The Council meets periodically to foster regional collaboration and development of positions on key national issues.

### Canada, U.S. Diverge on Customs Duties

A controversy over customs duties may be brewing as the Canadian and U.S. governments continue to look at ways to increase cross-border trade.

U.S. policymakers are reportedly pressing the Harper government to reduce duties on consumer goods purchased in the States. At issue is the discrepancy in how the two countries treat personal exemptions for small-value purchases. U.S. citizens are permitted to bring back up to \$200.00 worth of Canadian-purchased items duty-free regardless of length of stay. Canadians shopping in the U.S. receive no

exemption from Canadian duties unless they stay at least 24 hours. A 24 hour stay garners an exemption of up to \$50.00. A higher limit is allowed for longer stays.

The issue has become more highly charged in recent months due to the relative values of the U.S. and Canadian dollars. U.S. retailers are benefiting from a strong Canadian currency as shoppers look south in search of bargains. (The amount of money spent by Canadians in the U.S. has increased by 40% since 1996 according to Canadian government statistics.) However, Canadian officials are concerned that Canadian retailers are losing out and that loosening duties would exacerbate the problem.

According to the Globe and Mail newspaper, the U.S. Trade Representative has “formally raised” the personal exemption issue with the Canadian government.

At the same time, some members of Congress are seeking to have the \$200.00 U.S. exemption limit raised to \$1000.00 for short trips.

There may also be a security component to the issue. According to a Globe and Mail report, the Senate Homeland Security Committee is on record saying security would be better served if border inspectors spent “less time looking for extra bottles of duty-free whiskey” and more time on security threats.

The personal exemption issue is expected to be one of many matters addressed in on-going trade and perimeter security talks between the two governments.

#### Closing of Customs Stations Irks on Both Sides of Border

The recent closing of a pair of Canadian customs stations along the Quebec –New York border has officials on both sides of the border scrambling for ways to keep traffic moving.

The Canadian Border Services Agency closed the Franklin Centre patrol station along with another nearby station earlier this year bringing a halt to all northbound traffic at the sites. The CBSA cited budgetary restrictions saying the closing of the two Quebec stations together with one at Big Beaver, Saskatchewan would save \$1.25 million a year. The moves are a part of the Harper government’s “strategic review” of government spending.

Ironically, U.S. Customs and Border Protection recently restarted reconstruction on its Churubusco, New York station, immediately across the border from Franklin Centre.

Business and political leaders in both Quebec and New York have vigorously objected to the closings of the Canadian border stations as has the Bloc Quebecois in Parliament. Despite energetic lobbying efforts, the Canadian government has shown no signs of backing off.

One possible solution is to allow U.S. Customs agents to process northbound traffic on behalf of CBSA with Canadian officials being linked-in remotely. This would be unprecedented and the idea has provoked Canadian concerns over national sovereignty.

Garry Douglas, president of New York's North Country Chamber of Commerce, testifying last year before the House of Commons, accused Ottawa of a "stunningly bad example of unilateralism" in closing the stations saying it would disrupt lives and damage business relationships. "These rural crossings may not seem important to someone high up in Ottawa" he said, "but each of them represents a historic and valued connection between neighbors, and we shouldn't simply accept the loss of any such connections."

#### Filner Seeks Border Infrastructure Funding

Rep. Bob Filner (D-CA) has assumed a lead role in urging the leadership of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to reauthorize the Coordinated Border Infrastructure Program (CBIP). The program provides resources to alleviate traffic congestion at border crossings.

In a letter to Committee Chairman John Mica (R-FL), Filner asked that dedicated funding for CBIP be included in highway reauthorization legislation currently pending before the committee. The letter noted that border communities “receive limited assistance from the federal and state governments” to cope with congestion and safety issues created by large volumes of border-crossing traffic.

Filner also asked that funding for the program be increased from the current \$210 million annually to \$420 million in FY2012, and increasing to \$630 million in FY2016.

### Congressional Attitudes Toward Canada Assessed

A recent study by the Fraser Institute assesses U.S. congressional attitudes toward Canada.

Among the findings:

- Knowledge about Canada varies widely among Members of Congress;
- Most congressional attention on Canada is focused on security, trade, foreign policy and energy;
- Many in Congress believe Canada’s immigration policies pose a security threat to the U.S.;
- Canada has improved its profile on Capitol Hill through increased advocacy efforts by its embassy in Washington.

## ***CANADA INSTITUTE NEWS***

Welcome to the June 9 edition of "Canada Institute News." Our biweekly brief e-mail messages will keep you informed not only about what is happening at the Canada Institute but also in the Canada-U.S. relationship. Thank you for your continued interest and support. Please feel free to pass this along to those who might be interested in the programs.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### **"Whose Logo? Sustainable Consumption and Production in North America"**

Thursday, June 23, 2011, 9:30 am - 11:00 am

Stefanie Bowles, 2009-2010 Fulbright Scholar and senior policy researcher with Policy Horizons Canada, will discuss her new research on the drivers of, and current and emerging issues related to "green" products governance in Canada and the United States. Bowles will ask what, if anything, do "green" products mean for Canadian and American trade, environmental, and economic decision-making? Read event details and RSVP.

### **RECENT EVENTS**

#### **"Securing North America: A Discussion of Canada's First Defense Strategy"**

Friday, June 3, 2011, 10:00 am - 11:00 am

The Canada Institute hosted LGen Walt Semianiw, Commander of Canada Command, for a discussion on the challenges of implementing the *Canada First Defense Strategy*. A summary of the event, slides, and related video will be posted [here](#) shortly.

### **NEWS**

#### **U.S. oil industry urges approval of the Keystone XL pipeline**

The American Petroleum Institute (API) [urges](#) the United States to approve the Keystone XL pipeline.

Meanwhile, the Environmental Protection Agency [seeks](#) an [expanded review](#) of the project. See the debate on [Twitter](#).

**Parti Québécois fractures over continued inability to achieve sovereignty**

Four [Parti Québécois](#) members of the Quebec National Assembly [resigned](#) earlier this week, accusing the party of shifting away from its pro-independence roots towards political survival. Read about the [consequences](#) for the PQ and Party Leader Pauline Marois.

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

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- C. Editorials/Columns**
- D. Citizens Views (write-in letters)**