



# Alumni News



Embassy of the United States of America in Canada

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## Introducing Susan Crystal: Former Director of Alumni Office now Minister Counselor for Public Affairs in Canada

When I arrived in Ottawa last August, one of the first things that I unpacked was my glass "State Alumni" globe. It has been prominently displayed in my office ever since.

Of course, having worked as the director of the alumni office at the State Department for the previous four years heightened my interest in global alumni outreach opportunities; however, that globe reminds me every day of the importance that all of you play as alumni of U.S. government exchange programs. Your expertise, your knowledge and your enthusiasm to both keep abreast of the U.S.-Canada relationship and to serve as interpreters of that relationship are a testament to the importance of international exchanges. During my first few months on the job, I've had the opportunity to meet personally with a range of alumni, here in Ottawa, as well as during trips to Montreal and Toronto, and to virtually connect with alumni by reading about your activities on State Alumni as well as articles penned by alumni on a broad array of topics.



Minister Counselor for Public Affairs, Susan Crystal

In 2011, we plan to move the alumni file forward in a positive and pro-active way, building on the great progress made thus far. I have been impressed with the momentum of interest among alumni in reconnecting and staying connected with the Embassy, our Consulates, with each other, with alumni from other countries and with American interlocutors.

So, what can you do?

First, I encourage you to join [State Alumni](#), our global community of alumni. You will automatically have access to the Canada-US alumni community, which

focuses on the stories and successes of Canadian alumni—take a few minutes and write up your own success story to share with Canada and the world. You will have access to great tools, like "find fellow alumni"—where you can find that long-lost alum from your program in 1989; grant opportunities and an Online Research Center. Also, Fulbrighters can access the Fulbright Community, International Visitors can touch base with IV alumni on the IVLP Community, and all have access to the Alumni Association Community.

Second, look for opportunities through Public Affairs' regular

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emails as well as messages on the Canada-US Community for events (or post your own); grants funding (like the recent [Community Leadership Program](#)); or special alumni program invitations.

Third, watch for upcoming details about a special alumni conference that we are planning for later this year.

I'm excited about meeting more of you to brainstorm other ways to help you all continue the exchange experience, to expand opportunities for you to share your experience with others, and to look for ways to encourage more participants in exchange programs in this New Year of 2011.

## Ambassador Jacobson, Public Affairs Staff Host Luncheon for Ottawa Area Alumni

OTTAWA – It doesn't hurt to have the former head of Alumni Affairs as our new Minister Counselor for Public Affairs in Canada. Susan Crystal and Public Affairs staff hosted forty alumni and alumna for a luncheon with Ambassador David

Jacobson on November 2, 2010 as Canada's first large-scale alumni event since the 2006 alumni conference in Toronto. It was an exciting program that brought together alumni from Canada's three primary exchange programs:

Fulbright, the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) and the Parliamentary Internship Program (PIP). Joined by representatives from other Embassy sections, alumni were treated to a pep talk from Crystal about the

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## Ottawa Alumni Luncheon (cont'd from page 1)



**Stefanie Bowles, Ambassador David Jacobson and Martin Lavoie cozy up at the head table**

importance of alumni involvement in Mission activities. Enthusiasm was thick in the air as the audience listened to the experiences of spokespersons from the various exchange programs, including former PIP Martin Lavoie, IV alum Eli Turk, Stefanie Bowles who recently returned from her Fulbright exchange in Washington, and Canada's youngest alumnus, Jose Lebour, who traveled to San Diego last summer for the Institute of the America's National Youth Science Camp.



**Alumni and alumni applauding a speaker's remarks**



**Canada's youngest alumnus, José Lebour, shares his experiences with Mission officers**

Ambassador Jacobson provided the keynote address. "I am sure you appreciate that participation in an exchange program is not a one-time finite event but rather one that marks the beginning of an ongoing relationship." He commented on the importance of a sustained collaboration between the Mission and Canadian alumni, and expressed his delight at the excellent turn-out and keen interest that alumni and alumni exhibited at the event that afternoon.



**These lucky four alums were the winners of the draw for door prizes**



**Eli Turk and the Mission's Alumni Coordinator Sandra Weedmark chat before lunch**



**Ambassador Jacobson mingles with alums**



## Alumni Gather Across Canada for Fulbright's 20th Anniversary

### Toronto's Consul General Kevin Johnson Hosts Fulbright Reception

TORONTO—On September 29, Consul General Kevin M. Johnson hosted a reception at his residence to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the U.S.-Canada Fulbright Commission. Guests included a broad selection of Canadian Fulbrighters and International Visitor Leadership Program participants as well as Michael Hawes, the Director of the Commission, and Country Public Affairs Officer Susan Crystal.

The group of 65 attendees at the reception included a former Minister of Foreign Affairs, a member of the first Fulbright "class" from Canada to the United States, several Fulbrighters scheduled to travel in coming months, and a range of International Visitor Leadership Program participants which included professors, researchers, lawyers, environmentalists, political consultants, journalists, entrepreneurs, business executives, economists and authors.



Consul General Johnson, CPAO Crystal, and Fulbright Director Michael Hawes offered welcoming remarks and urged attendees to take part in exchange alumni activities.

### B.C. Fulbright Alums Attend 20th Anniversary Luncheon



VANCOUVER—Jennifer Regan, program officer for Fulbright Canada, along with Public Affairs staff, enjoyed a lunch with four Vancouver-area Fulbright alumni.

The luncheon was intended as a celebration of Fulbright Canada's 20th anniversary, as well as to promote networking among the alumni, and establish a relationship between the alumni and the Public Affairs office at the consulate.

### Consul General Lee McClenny Hosts Exchange Program Alumni Reception in Montreal



MONTREAL—Consul General Lee McClenny (left) hosted a reception for 31 Exchange Program alumna and alumni.

Minister Counselor for Public Affairs Susan Crystal addressed the audience at the reception, which included Dominique Nadeau, the Political/Economic/Public Affairs Specialist from the Consul General in Quebec City.

## U.S. Federal Grant Opportunity

### U.S. MISSION CANADA ANNOUNCES COMPETITIVE PROCESS FOR COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

**U.S. grants competition for Canadian educational and non-profit institutions to enhance mutual understanding between Canada and the United States.  
Application Deadline: April 18, 2011**

The United States Mission to Canada (Embassy Ottawa and Consulates and Offices in Vancouver, Calgary, Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal, Quebec City, and Halifax) through its Public Affairs Section is pleased to announce an open competition for grants ranging up to \$25,000 based upon available funding. Canadian educational and registered non-profit institutions are invited to apply for awards to engage American practitioners on content in collaborative, interdisciplinary community projects utilizing American studies pedagogy, curriculum, research, and other materials and resources which enhance mutual understanding between Canada and the United States. Awards will support projects developed in collaboration with community-based organizations, school districts, libraries, historical societies, museums, and other non-profit entities. Applications are due April 18, 2011.

For complete details, please click [here](#) to see the U.S. Embassy website document: Request for Applications: U.S. Mission in Canada Community Partnership Grants.



## ALUMNI MESSAGES

## Cathy Busby, 1995-96 Canadian Fulbright Researcher

As a Fulbright fellow during 1995-96, I was a Visiting Researcher in American Studies at New York University. The related research and writing I now do as a visual artist often references what I did while holding a Fulbright fellowship.

My work since 2008 has featured the public apologies made to First Nations people for the Indian Residential schools in Canada and to Aboriginal people for the 'Stolen Generations' in Australia. This has resulted in two large public artworks ([http://www.cathybusby.ca/wearesorry\\_melbourne.php](http://www.cathybusby.ca/wearesorry_melbourne.php)). This year I was invited to be part of *Art & Social Justice*, a project of the Institute of Art, Religion and Social Jus-

tice at Union Theological Seminary which is affiliated with Columbia University in New York.

I called this work *Reconciliation/Coincidence* because my father, Rev. David Busby (1928-1994), did his MA at Union and the books that he had acquired while there were the primary sources for this work. It was through his church connections that I attended the Carcross Community Education Centre in 1974-75, a former Indian residential school transformed by 1970s idealists into an 'alternative school' with local First Nations and white students from Canada's major cities.

Having worked on commemorating



Cathy Busby's *We Are Sorry*  
[www.cathybusby.ca](http://www.cathybusby.ca)

these landmark apologies on a grand scale, the invitation to do an artwork at Union helped me to articulate my stake in this story and bring awareness of these apologies and period of reconciliation to an American audience.

This year I received the Established Artist Recognition Award from the Province of Nova Scotia.

## Katy Mack Clark, 1994-95 American Fulbright Scholar

I attended the gala dinner in Ottawa this past September. "It was an exciting evening celebrating Fulbright Canada's many successes." I will return to Canada in March 2011 to present research on children's speech competence during a socially stressful situation at the Society for Research in Child Development's biennial meeting in Montreal. "Our findings suggest that speech competence during a standardized stress paradigm is associated with cognitive and motor func-

tion, which could influence different levels of physiological and psychological stress response, a fact rarely considered by investigators.

I am a Research Specialist at the University of Michigan's Center for Human Growth and Development, which is part of a large interdisciplinary research group, headed by Betsy Lozoff, MD, which focuses mainly on the effects of iron deficiency in infancy on behavior and development.

"My ability to contribute in a meaningful way to this international group is a direct result of the skills I learned while studying as a Fulbright scholar at the University of British Columbia."

I published in the last year on the relationship between maternal depressed mood and speech in a Latin American country and the effects of home intervention on the development of iron-deficient anemic infants.

## Irene Boschken, 1980 American Fulbright Scholar

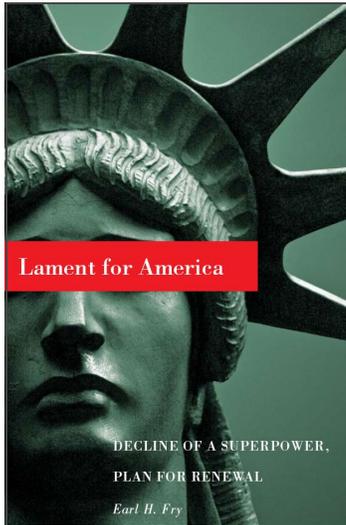
This past summer I spent a month in Sweden and Ireland in connection with my chairing a panel and presenting a research paper on global cities at the World Congress of the International Sociological Association in Gothenburg, Sweden.

We had lived in Sweden in the early

1980s when I had a Fulbright at Umea University, but this was our first time back. Since Ireland was the only major country we had not visited in Europe, we spent two weeks driving on the "wrong side of the road" throughout this tiny island country. Both provided a thoroughly enjoyable experience. Beyond such travels, we both remain

active in our professions. I am a manager for RICA, the primary education teacher certification program. I continue with my research, but have semi-retired to half-time teaching. We continue to have our primary home in Davis but have a second home in San Diego.

## ALUMNI MESSAGES

Earl Fry's *Lament for America*

Dr. Earl Fry, professor of Canadian Studies at Brigham Young University, has been an expert speaker for Mission Canada. As alumna and alumni, you, too, can get involved! Email us at [cultural@state.gov](mailto:cultural@state.gov)

## Earl Fry, 1995-96 American Fulbright Scholar

After studying the bilateral relationship for more than three decades, I would make one major point. Washington cannot afford to take Canada for granted, and North America as a whole must recognize that it is facing much stiffer economic competition from other parts of the world, especially from Asia and the so-called BRICS.

In my new book published by the University of Toronto Press and entitled *Lament for America: Decline of the Superpower, Plan for Renewal*, I emphasize how important Canada is to the well-being of the residents of the United States. In my recent editorial published in the *Winnipeg Free Press*, I issue the following warning:

"At first glance, it looks as if Canada is tethered to an aging superpower afflicted with a bad case of arthritis. On the other hand, the U.S. economy will eventually grow again and is still three times larger than second place China's. Moreover, the U.S. population is expected to surpass 430 million by mid-century at a time when much of Europe, Japan, Russia, and even China will face dwindling populations. Ottawa and the provincial capitals should devise a new blueprint to reenergize cross-border economic relations, reminiscent of what they did in the 1980s leading up to the free trade agreement. Surely, Washington can be persuaded to thin the border while still maintaining sensible security precautions. Pre-clearance for most goods and people

is easily attainable and more joint management of border interactions is achievable. Both governments can work toward liberalizing the cross-border movement of labor and putting in place some form of customs union. Limited currency stabilization efforts may also be feasible.

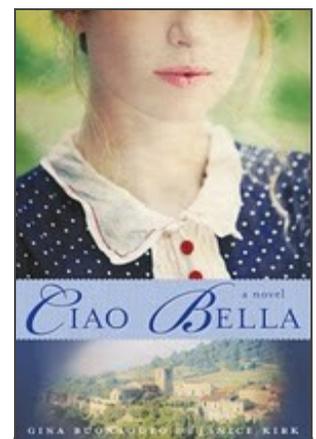
The handwriting is on the wall. The Canada-U.S. business and economic partnership must be strengthened dramatically because both countries are facing unprecedented competition from Asia and the emerging markets. Rationalize, innovate, and cooperate--or be prepared to face a period of relative economic decline on the North American continent."

## Dr. Shannon M. Risk, 2008 Canadian Fulbright Student

Dr. Shannon Risk recently published an article in Janet Guildford and Suzanne Morton's *Making up the State: Women in 20th-Century Atlantic Canada*, published by Acadiensis Press out of the University of New Brunswick in July 2010. Her article is titled, "'The Magnitude of My Services': Minnie Bell Adney and the Women of Woodstock." Risk is an assistant professor of history at Niagara University in Niagara Falls, New York. The book can be found at: <http://www.lib.unb.ca/Texts/Acadiensis/book/s/muts.htm>

## Gina Buonaguro, 1997-98 Fulbright Scholar

*Ciao Bella*, Gina Buonaguro's second novel coauthored with Janice Kirk, is now available in Canada and the U.S. from St. Martin's Press. *Ciao Bella* tells the story of a Canadian woman married to a missing Italian Resistance fighter in the summer after World War II in Northern Italy. Booklist writes: "A compelling combination of romance, adventure, and serious thought, this slim novel is sure to appeal to many audiences." Originally from New Jersey, Buonaguro is now a dual citizen living in Toronto, collaborating with the Canadian Kirk. Visit [www.ciaobellanovel.com](http://www.ciaobellanovel.com) for more information on *Ciao Bella* and their first novel, *The Sidewalk Artist*.

Gina Buonaguro's *Ciao Bella*

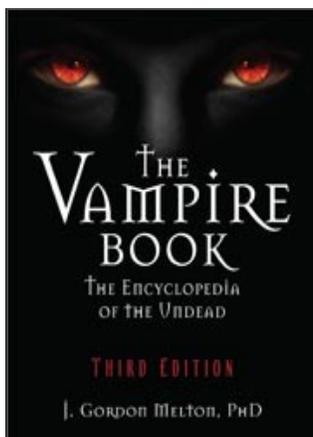
## ALUMNI MESSAGES

## Ross Leckie, Fulbright Chair from 07-08, from the University of New Brunswick to Arizona State

As editor of *The Fiddlehead*, one of Canada's most respected literary journals, I continue to keep in touch with the wonderful writers of Arizona State who hosted my Fulbright in 2007. Both faculty and students met there have been submitting their work to *The Fiddlehead* and their writing has been introduced to Canadian readers. Peggy Schumaker appeared in our Winter 2010 issue. In our Spring issue we published two poems by ASU alumna Meghan Martin. In our summer poetry issue the writing of the renowned American poet Marvin Bell was featured in a special section. I met Marvin when he visited Arizona State and

he has remained a friend of *The Fiddlehead*. Superb work by Jeannine Savard and Cynthia Hogue also appeared in the summer. Cynthia has a remarkable new book out. I learned a great deal from these writers when I was in Arizona and I am delighted to be in close contact with them now, three years later.

Current issue of the *Fiddlehead*  
(Image credit:  
[www.thefiddlehead.ca](http://www.thefiddlehead.ca))



Angela Aleiss contributed to *The Vampire Book* (image credit: [visibleinkpress.com](http://visibleinkpress.com))

## Angela Aleiss, Ph.D, 1993 –1994 American Fulbright Scholar

Angela Aleiss, Ph.D., was recently a featured guest on the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC Radio 3) segment "James Young Deer--The Winnebago Movie-Maker" aired September 26, 2010. She also appeared as a commentator in the DVD Special Features for "The Vampires Diaries: The First Complete Season" released August 2010, and she served as a contributing writer for "The Vampire Book: The Encyclopedia of the Undead," 3rd edition (Visible Ink Press, 2010, Gordon Melton ed.).

## Stephen Farnsworth, 2006-07 American Fulbright Chair

The following publication was a product of the Fulbright award: "The International Two-Step Flow in Foreign News: Canadian and U.S. Television News Coverage of U.S. Affairs." (Stephen J. Farnsworth, Stuart Soroka, and Lori Young). *International Journal of Press/Politics* 15(4): 401-19 (October 2010).

## Peter Ladner, 1996 IV on Urban Policy and Management in the U.S.

Peter Ladner has been revisiting the U.S. from Vancouver researching a book he is writing: *The*

*Urban Food Revolution, Planning Cities as if Food Matters.*

Due for publication in Fall, 2011, it covers everything from preserving agricultural land at the urban edge, to promoting community gardens, ending food deserts and teaching school children how to eat food that won't

make them sick and fat.

Having had a career as a Vancouver city councillor (2002-2008) and vice chair of the Metro Vancouver board, he is now a Fellow at the Simon Fraser University Centre for Dialogue.

Part of this project there involves bringing in U.S. speakers to contribute to public discussions about Metro Vancouver's Regional Food Strategy. He is also a Vancouver columnist for Seattle-based [crosscut.com](http://crosscut.com), a regional affairs online news service.

## ALUMNI MESSAGES

**Frédéric Gagnon, 2005 Study of the U.S. Institute**

I have tried - over the last ten years - to contribute to a better understanding of American politics and U.S. elections here in Québec. More particularly, I have paid great attention to congressional elections, and I have tried to highlight the importance of these elections for Americans and for Canada/Québec relations. As you probably know, people in Canada/Québec pay more attention to presidential elections than to congressional elections. Often, we - on this side of the border - forget that Congress plays a fundamental role in American politics and is extremely powerful in Washington. Gubernatorial elections are also extremely important for Americans and for us since the Province of Québec has built strong relations with states such as Vermont and New York (two new governors were elected in these states a month ago).

In line with this, I have tried to play a leading role in the analysis of the 2010 U.S. elections over the last few months. As a Professor of American Politics at University of Québec at Montréal and Director of the Center for United States Studies of the Raoul Dandurand Chair, some of what I have done follows:

Articles and op-ed pieces in Canadian/Québécois professional magazines and newspapers:

- Frédéric Gagnon, « Le prochain grand chantier d'Obama », *Global Brief* (printemps/été 2010), p. 38-41.
- Frédéric Gagnon, « Élections de mi-mandat : Vers une victoire républicaine ? », *Le Devoir*, 30 octobre 2010.
- Frédéric Gagnon, « Guerres culturelles aux États-Unis: Vieux vin, nouvelle bouteille ? », *Le Devoir*, 9-10 octobre 2010, p. B5.

I was invited to give a keynote address at the conference of the Midwest Association for Canadian Studies, Windsor, October 23, 2010: « Watching America from our 'Tiny Attic Apartment' : A Québec Perspective on the 2010 U.S. Elections ».

Some conference that I have given:

- Frédéric Gagnon, « Les jeux de pouvoir à Washington : Qui décide en politique intérieure d'ici 2012? ». Conférence prononcée lors d'une rencontre d'échanges avec le Sous-ministériat aux Affaires bilatérales, la Direction Amérique du Nord et la Direction de la planification et des politiques du Ministère des Relations internationales, Québec, 10 décembre 2010.
- Frédéric Gagnon, « Retour vers le futur? Obama et les *midterms* de 2010 ». Conférence prononcée au Collège André-Grasset, Montréal, 17 novembre 2010.
- Frédéric Gagnon, « Résultats du 2 novembre 2010 : Quelle présidence Obama d'ici 2012? ». Conférence post-électorale de l'Observatoire sur les États-Unis de la Chaire Raoul-Dandurand, Université du Québec à Montréal, 9 novembre 2010.
- Center for United States Studies, Montreal on October 14 2010: "The Culture Wars in the United States: The Politics of Religious Conservatism in Obama's Time".
- « Résultats du 2 novembre 2010 : Quelle présidence Obama d'ici 2012? ». Conférence post-électorale, UQAM 9 novembre 2010 (conférenciers : Frédéric Gagnon, Louis Balthazar, Donald Cuccioletta).

And finally, I have taught two classes on American politics in the Department of political science at UQAM this Fall (one undergraduate class and one graduate seminar). In both classes, I have encouraged my students to pay attention to the 2010 elections.

## REFERENCE

## U.S. Embassy's Information Resource Center (IRC)

**Research and Reference Services.** Got a question about the U.S.? Looking for the latest public policy statement? A U.S. law? The IRC can help with your request for information from or about the U.S. [ottawareference@State.gov](mailto:ottawareference@State.gov).

**E-Alerts.** Subscribe now to any of our services to receive e-mail messages alerting you to new texts and documents on your subject of interest:

[http://ottawa.usembassy.gov/content/content.asp?section=issues&document=e\\_alerts](http://ottawa.usembassy.gov/content/content.asp?section=issues&document=e_alerts).

**Web Sites.** Visit <http://ottawa.usembassy.gov> for information on the Embassy and about the United States. The site is updated daily.

## Alumni Social Networking

STATE ALUMNI now has a presence on two social networking websites to reach out to both alumni and potential alumni. The State Alumni groups are open for anyone to join on the following websites:

**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/group.php?gid=31684659276>

and **ExchangesConnect:** <http://connect.state.gov/group/statealumni>.

We invite you to connect with State Alumni on both Facebook and Exchanges Connect!

## Join the Canada-U.S. Alumni Community

The electronic community has been launched and provides a forum for networking with other alumni interested in Canada-U.S. and tri-lateral issues. As with most social networking websites, the communities on the State Alumni Website will allow you to find fellow alumni, engage in discussion, read and post articles, news about alumni achievements, and announcements from the Department of State and the Embassy. Registered alumni will be able to participate in live Q & A sessions with special guests. The sessions' transcripts will be available on-line as well.

Becoming a member also gives you free online access to thousands of publications!

We invite you to extend your networking by taking advantage of this opportunity to further your research and professional contacts with fellow alumni.

To be a part of the community, you need to register on the State Alumni Site at <https://alumni.state.gov>.

## State Alumni Network

The Department of State Alumni Network provides a great opportunity for State Alumni to remain in touch and meet others from around the world who have participated in U.S. government-sponsored programs. Those connected to the network can take advantage of upcoming web chats with experts, receive alumni news, free academic journals, global newspaper databases, and learn about grant opportunities. Update your user profile information if you have already signed up or register now at <https://alumni.state.gov>

## State Alumni Fulbright Library

The Fulbright Library on State Alumni is a new way to share, connect and collaborate with other current and former Fulbrighters. It offers a platform for you to share your articles, blogs, classroom materials and other media related to your areas of interest and research, particularly work related to your Fulbright grant.

## CONTACT

**SHARE YOUR STORIES, EXPERIENCES AND SUCCESSES!!**

Public Affairs staff across Canada want to know what alumna and alumni are up to in their districts.

**Help keep us in the loop!**

Email [cultural@state.gov](mailto:cultural@state.gov) or contact someone in the list below if you want to touch base with your regional alumni coordinator to discuss your experience and expertise, cooperative opportunities, and upcoming events.

**Contact Info / Links****Alumni Contacts**

Alumni Coordinator, Sandra Weedmark  
Fulbright Alumni Coordinator, Jesse Davies  
Information Resource Center, U.S. Embassy

[weedmarksl@state.gov](mailto:weedmarksl@state.gov)  
[jdavies@fulbright.ca](mailto:jdavies@fulbright.ca)  
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Montreal - Annick Landreville, (514) 908-3655  
Ottawa - Sandra Weedmark, Alumni Coordinator, 613-688-5313  
Quebec City - Sophie Maciagowski, 418-692-2095, ext 2000  
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[weedmarksl@state.gov](mailto:weedmarksl@state.gov)  
[MaciagowskiS@state.gov](mailto:MaciagowskiS@state.gov)  
[torontopa@state.gov](mailto:torontopa@state.gov)  
[engrt@state.gov](mailto:engrt@state.gov)  
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State Department Current Issues

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[www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov)  
[www.usinfo.state.gov](http://www.usinfo.state.gov)