Happy New Year and Happy 150th Canada! We look forward to celebrating this monumental year with our Canadian friends and neighbors.

In honor of the close relationship between our two countries, U.S. Embassy Ottawa will present two exhibitions and a photographic essay at the National Capital Commission’s 150 International Pavilion, 50 Sussex Drive, from February 1 to February 19. The displays will showcase the historic relationship between our countries, the lives of Indigenous peoples, and U.S.-Canada cooperation on Arctic issues. The exhibits highlight intriguing stories involving our countries and emphasize the important cultural connections we share.

The Embassy is also pleased to feature “North is Freedom: The Legacy of the Underground Railroad,” a photographic essay by Canadian photographer Yuri Dojc that celebrates the descendants of freedom-seekers who escaped slavery in the United States and built new lives in Canada.

The International Pavilion, open to the public, will host an array of events including panel discussions, film screenings, and a musical performance. Click here for schedule of events in Ottawa. The exhibition will travel to other locations in Canada throughout 2017. Stay tuned for updates!
MP Matt DeCourcey, IVLP 2016, named Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs effective January 30.

Matt was elected in October 2015 as a Member of Parliament for the riding of Fredericton, New Brunswick. Previously, Matt worked for former MP and Cabinet Minister Andy Scott and former Labrador MP and Metis leader Todd Russell. In 2016, Matt participated in the “Identity Politics in the United States” IVLP.

Gregory Francis, 2013 Youth Ambassador, named to Prime Minister’s Youth Council

Congratulations to Gregory Francis of Kingsclear First Nation in New Brunswick (middle row right), who was selected to the exclusive Youth Council this fall. Gregory is a student at the University of New Brunswick. He has earned a reputation as a positive role model for First Nations youth and as a facilitator of youth engagement. For more on Greg see THE DAILY GLEANER (Fredericton, NB) October 11, 2016
Fulbright alumnus Philip Glass, receives Glenn Gould Prize

The U.S. Mission to Canada honored Fulbright alumnus and preeminent American composer Philip Glass on November 26, 2016, when he received the Glenn Gould Prize for his contributions to music. Maestro Glass studied in Paris as a Fulbright grantee in the 1960s. The Toronto-based Glenn Gould Foundation chose him as the 11th recipient of the Glenn Gould Prize.

Pictured at the reception in honor of Maestro Glass are (left to right) Kay Mayfield, Minister-Counselor for Public Affairs of the U.S. Mission to Canada and member of the Fulbright Canada board of directors; Brian Levine, Executive Director of the Glenn Gould Foundation; Dr. Roseann Runte, President and Vice-Chancellor of Carleton University and President of the Fulbright Canada board of directors; Philip Glass; Dr. Michael Hawes, Executive Director of Fulbright Canada; and Cameron MacKay, Director General of Trade Sectors at Global Affairs Canada and member of the Fulbright Canada board of directors. (Photo courtesy of the Glenn Gould Foundation.)

Laura Lynes, IVLP 2014, presents at COP22

Laura Lynes, IVLP alumna, presented in Marrakech, Morocco, at the 2016 UNFCCC Convention of the Parties (COP22). Laura led a team of experts who addressed the global audience about best practices in building trusting partnerships with indigenous communities. Her presentation focused on a pilot project of The Rockies Institute – Building Resilience and Adaptation in the Kainai First Nation – that was supported by a grant from the U.S. Consulate in Calgary. The Rockies Institute, founded by Laura, is a new charitable organization in Canada that seeks to create awareness in businesses (especially small and medium-sized enterprises) and vulnerable communities about the risks and opportunities related to climate change.
Annie Proulx Luncheon

On September 30, 2016, several alumni joined Annie Proulx at the Residence of Ambassador and Mrs. Heyman for a lunch in honor of the Pulitzer Prize–winning author. Left to right: George Anderson (Harvard Fellow); Annie Proulx; Brian Crowley (PIP,) Managing Director of the MacDonald-Laurier Institute; and Anne Dance (PIP) and Director of PIP.

Smithsonian Curators DVC

Groups of alumni in Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec City, and Calgary gathered in the Embassy and respective Consulates for a digital video conference with two curators from the Smithsonian who work on the preservation of Indigenous languages. The event produced an insightful discussion of best practices and problems in how to keep these languages alive. For those who missed the event, you can watch it [here](http://example.com).
The role of identity politics in U.S. elections, November 2016 IVLP

As the 2016 U.S. election neared, 10 Canadians from across the country traveled on the U.S. Department of State’s International Visitor Leadership Program to witness the campaigns and elections up close. The theme of the program, “Identity Politics in the United States,” offered a comparative look at how special interest groups in the United States and Canada make their voices heard in the political process.

The Canadian visitors represented politics, academia, and the media. They traveled to Washington, D.C.; New Orleans; and Cleveland, to spend election night in the key swing state of Ohio.

Two of the travelers, Members of Parliament Nathan Cullen and Garnett Genuis, shared observations at a panel at the Embassy in December. Speaking to a 70-person audience that drew from across Canada's political spectrum, they discussed the formal briefings U.S. electoral experts offered them and the conversations with everyday people that gave a deeper look at American political culture. During their U.S. tour, they learned about the nuts and bolts of American campaigns and election management, heard different points of view about the regulation of campaign contributions in the U.S., and dug into ways that social media are changing political communication. It was an insightful, fascinating event and reminded all in attendance that even though the United States and Canada are the closest of friends, neighbors, and allies, there are always opportunities to learn more about each other!

Toronto
Youth Ambassadors visit Consulate

On October 26, Toronto Consul General Juan Alsace, Public Affairs Officer Hilary Renner, and Cultural Assistant Claudia Valladolid welcomed five outstanding Canadian youth community leaders who participated in the 2016 Youth Ambassadors program. Nana Boahen, Tsahai Carter, Jacob DaCosta, Gil Angela Dela Cruz, and Justin Xu, as well as Amy Sotherden, Assistant Director of the Center for the Study of Canada/Institute on Québec Studies at SUNY Plattsburg, participated in a Mentoring Forum. The Youth Ambassadors had an opportunity to discuss with the Consul General Alsace a variety of issues related to their exchange experience and their service projects. They shared information about their current activities on their service projects in their schools and communities and how the projects will have a short-term or longer-term impact on their community. The Youth Ambassadors highlighted how their participation in the program most benefited them personally and discussed their feedback and lessons learned.
Alumni from Calgary gathered in October for a discussion at Consul General Tom Palaia’s residence with Lee Brenner, who works on civic engagement and technology for Microsoft in Washington, D.C. Over breakfast, Brenner discussed how technology use in political campaigns has evolved since 2008—the first presidential race to incorporate social media and online engagement as a major part of a campaign strategy. With young voters receiving nearly 75% of their news from online sources, campaigns must have an online strategy that incorporates the newest social media platforms, such as Instagram and Snapchat, to reach this demographic.

Just having an online presence isn’t enough, as Brenner underscored the importance of authenticity in candidate interactions online and offline. Technology such as Microsoft Pulse is now being incorporated by major media outlets to gauge audience reactions to candidates during debates and other large-scale public interactions in real time. This technology offers valuable and immediate feedback for campaigns, because viewers are able to weigh in directly on whether they agree or disagree with a candidate’s statement or position and vote on candidate authenticity as they speak. Brenner’s breakfast with alumni was part of a two-day program in Calgary and Winnipeg that included visits to universities and other professionals in the communication and technology fields to discuss the role of technology in elections.
Halifax

Presidential Election Night

State Alumni attended the Presidential Election viewing event in Halifax. The evening was a wonderful opportunity for alumni to reconnect and meet other contacts of Consulate General Halifax.


Congress to Campus

On September 30, Halifax Consul General Steven Giegerich hosted two Congress to Campus speakers at his residence. Among the guests were several State alumni including two recent Youth Ambassadors. Shown here are former Congressman Martin Lancaster, Jack deGooyer (YA 2015), Katherine Chaput (YA 2016), and former Congressman Steve Kuykendall. Jack is a first-year student at Dalhousie studying engineering and Katherine is in high school.
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Do you have a new job? Have you changed jobs? News to report? Send me your submissions for the newsletter! We are also eager to have your updated contact information so we can keep in touch! You can email us at: Alumnicanada@State.gov or email Eleanore Boyse directly at: Boysee@state.gov

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