Dear Alumni,

It is difficult to imagine that my time here in Ottawa is soon coming to a close and it is time to say farewell. It has been a pleasure serving as your alumni coordinator these past two years.

May I also take this opportunity to remind you that the U.S. Mission to Canada Public Affairs grant program is open to all Canadian not-for-profit institutions. We offer opportunities to apply for funding of activities that enhance the bilateral relationship, and we have recently supported projects that share best practices in the academic, culture, and public policy fields, to name just a few. For example: the Public Affairs Section awarded 4H a grant to bring an American delegate to speak at a global conference in Ottawa; collaborated with the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction; and supported foreign policy speaker programs and conferences on Iran, North Korea, and the Arctic.

It has been a pleasure meeting many of you on my travels throughout Canada and here in Ottawa and I would welcome crossing paths again. I really will miss the real Canadian winters (sic) and beautiful summers, but look forward to returning to Washington, D.C., with my family.

Eleanore Boyse
U.S. Embassy Ottawa Hosts Fulbright Scholar Andrew Cohen to Mark 2018 Black History Month

In February 2018, Andrew Cohen, Fulbright Scholar 2017 at the Woodrow Wilson International Center, spoke to a packed room at U.S. Embassy Ottawa about the life of Medgar Evers, the first field secretary of the NAACP in Mississippi from 1954 to 1963. Evers investigated the murder of Emmett Till, championed the integration of the University of Mississippi, and organized the black economic boycott in Jackson. Quiet, intense, and courageous, Evers was said to personify "civil rights before Civil Rights." His murder in 1963 made him a martyr. Mr. Cohen is the author of Two Days in June: John F. Kennedy and the 48 Hours That Made History. He spent his Fulbright year in Washington researching his next book about Evers' life.

Letia Obed, IVLP 2006, Briefs Fulbright Arctic Initiative Scholars in Iqaluit

Letia Obed briefed scholars of the Fulbright Arctic Initiative on May 23 in Iqaluit, Nunavut. Ms. Obed is Director of Aboriginal and Circumpolar Affairs in the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs at the Government of Nunavut. She outlined the history of territorial status for Nunavut, demographics, and government priorities. The Fulbright scholars, representing all eight Arctic countries, traveled to Iqaluit for the preliminary meetings to plan their 18-month research program on sustainable economies and resilient communities in the circumpolar Arctic.
Québec Alumni of 2018 IVLP on Combating the Opioid Epidemic in North America Share Their Experiences

Pierre-André Dubé and Sandhia Vadlamudy spoke about their recent IVLP experience at a provincial conference held by the International Drug Policy Consortium for professionals working on harm reduction related to substance use disorders in Longueuil, Québec, on May 9, 2018. The duo relayed what they learned about the current opioid crisis in the United States and shared American best practices that could be adapted to Canadian and Québec contexts.

Manitoba Alumni Enjoy a Casual Get Together with Halifax Alumnus Johnny McPherson

If you’re travelling, why not reach out to local alumni at your destination? That’s what IVLP 2009 alumnus Johnny McPherson did when he recently travelled from Halifax to Winnipeg.

Mr. McPherson says, “I didn’t know many people when I arrived in Winnipeg, but Brad Kirbyson at the U.S. Consulate convinced a few alumni to come out and meet me, and I found myself in good company. We shared stories and laughs, talked about our IVLP adventures and professional interests, and thought of ways to stay in touch as a national alumni group. I feel honored to be in such good company, and I look forward to future collaborations.”

Pictured, left to right, are Louis Allain, IVLP 2013, Executive Director at the Economic Development Council for Manitoba Bilingual Municipalities; the Rt. Hon. Ed Schreyer, IVLP 1978, former Governor General of Canada; Diane Redsky, IVLP 2015, Executive Director at the Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre and recipient of the Governor General’s Award for her work with Indigenous families and women’s rights; Johnny McPherson, Atlantic Canada State Alumni Network; Derek Earl, IVLP 2017, Vice President of World Trade Centre Winnipeg; and Brad Kirbyson, Political/Economic Specialist with the U.S. Consulate in Winnipeg. Not pictured is Jeff Browaty, IVLP 2017, City Councillor for the City of Winnipeg.
Anthony Morissette, IVLP 2017, Speaks with U.S. Consulate Montréal about Healing the Wounds of Trafficking

Constable Anthony Morissette, of RCMP’s Aboriginal Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit, briefed colleagues on his recent trip and the victim-based approach that he encountered in meetings with law enforcement peers, Trafficking in Persons (TIP) survivors, and service providers in the United States.

When the U.S. Consulate General Montréal hosted sex trafficking speaker and survivor Amy Smith, Mr. Morissette was a natural partner. With support from his team, he gathered a group of around 100 attendees from RCMP and other law enforcement agencies who work against trafficking in persons, including several counterparts from First Nations police forces across Québec and social services providers from these communities. The audience, the majority of whom had never heard directly from a sex trafficking survivor, listened attentively as Ms. Smith shared her story and presented a victim-centered approach to investigating sex trafficking crimes and protecting victims. They heard about the psychological manipulation tactics used by traffickers, the effects of trauma on the brain that impairs the ability of victims to recall events in a linear fashion, and effective ways to approach and assist TIP victims. Ms. Smith left participants with a guidance document titled “Dear Investigator… Sincerely, a Survivor” – Tips on Interviewing Human Trafficking Victims.

As part of this training session, the RCMP also hosted Elizabeth Horsman, Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Northern District of New York (NDNY), who spoke about their human trafficking task force, examples of best practices in rural and Indigenous communities, and the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking in and affecting Indigenous communities. Although Canada’s Indigenous peoples number only 4 percent of the Canadian population, women and girls from these communities are especially vulnerable to trafficking, according to the Department of State’s 2017 Report on Trafficking in Persons.

Sandhia Vadlamudy, IVLP 2018, Executive Director of CACTUS Montréal, a community organization active in downtown Montréal that aims to reduce the risk of opioid-related deaths, hosted Christina Nolan, the U.S. Attorney for the District of Vermont, in February 2018. The two discussed Montréal’s approach to handling the public health crisis. Ms. Vadlamudy is an alumna of the recent IVLP Combating the Opioid Epidemic in North America.
SPOTLIGHT ON THE INTERNATIONAL VISITOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (IVLP)

Combating the Opioid Epidemic in North America: February 2018

This IVLP project assisted representatives from government, the non-profit sector, and the healthcare industry to grapple with ways to combat the opioid epidemic. Participants and their U.S. counterparts gained and shared information, examples, and contacts working on the issue, strengthening cross-border networks and bilateral cooperation. Meetings were held with U.S. federal and state legislators, NGOs, private sector partners such as pharmacy chains, and law enforcement to discuss how the crisis is being managed at every level in the United States. The group explored the collaborative initiatives among federal and state-level law enforcement agencies, investigators, public health experts, legislators, and prosecutors to address wide-scale substance abuse and to combat the production, transfer, and sale of illicit drugs. They engaged with counterparts in community-based NGOs and the private sector who advocate policy improvements, raise public awareness about opioid addiction, and explore factors that place certain populations at a higher risk for dependency. The visit bolstered bilateral partnerships and enhanced strategies to decrease the number of opioid-related deaths in both Canada and the United States.

Participants:
- **Mr. Wayne Bishop**
  Regional Addictions Prevention Consultant, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Eastern Health
- **Dr. Pierre-André Dubé**
  Pharmacist-Toxicologist, Québec National Institute of Public Health
- **Dr. Elaine Hyshka**
  Assistant Professor, Health Policy and Management, School of Public Health, University of Alberta
- **Cpl. Anthony Muench**
  Lead Investigator, Project EPLAN, Royal Canadian Mounted Police
- **Ms. Sandhia Vadlamudy**
  General Director, CACTUS Montréal

Combating Trafficking in Persons: February–March 2018

This multi-regional project supported a major tenet of U.S. foreign policy: the human rights imperative to combat trafficking of persons for the sex trade and slave labor. Discussions focused on best practices to disrupt the supply and demand chains. Participants examined U.S. legislation; visa regulations; enforcement against and prosecution of traffickers; initiatives to identify, protect, assist, and provide services for trafficking victims; efforts to raise awareness through the media; and local, national, and international cooperative efforts to combat trafficking in persons. Participants met with local, state, and federal government agencies, law enforcement, educators, NGOs, faith-based organizations, and advocacy groups to examine how the U.S. public and private sectors collaborate to end trafficking, both domestically and internationally. They examined U.S. local, national, and international efforts to combat trafficking in persons; explored innovative law enforcement strategies for preventing, investigating, and prosecuting trafficking crimes; explored U.S. policy initiatives to protect, assist and provide social and economic reintegration services for trafficking victims; and discussed awareness and education efforts and international cooperation in combating trafficking in persons.

Participant:  **Tara Dawn Clelland Hall**

Corporal, ViCLAS Behavioral Analyst, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Winnipeg
Countering Violent Extremist and Radicalization Through Community Empowerment: May 2018

This program explored ways the United States counters violent extremism and radicalization through community empowerment and law enforcement collaboration. The trip took participants to five American cities—Washington, D.C., Baltimore, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Boston—and focused on prevention and detection techniques for extremist violent actions before they occur and strategies to counter the appeal of extremist movement ideologies. Discussions centered on online and in-person recruitment methods used by extremist movements; how organizations deconstruct the appeal of extremist movement ideologies marketed to vulnerable audiences; and alternative responses to multiple forms of targeted violence, including community-based, multidisciplinary approaches.

Participants:

Marc-André Argentino, Policy Analyst, Global Affairs Canada

Jérôme Bélanger Champagne, Professor of Political Science, Collège Maisonneuve

Adam Idris, Co-founder, Syrian Refugee Assistance Group

David Zackrias, Staff Sergeant, Diversity and Race Relations Section, Ottawa Police Service

“I want to thank you all for the wonderful opportunities you provided me to participate in the IVLP. No doubt, it was a once in a lifetime transformational experience. The exposure has provided me a better understanding of the American political system and the constitution which I found very fascinating. During my stay in the U.S., I made lots of new friends and grew admiration for the American people who I came in contact with. Despite all the political rhetoric and divide, I found Americans to be very caring, humble, and giving which makes U.S. the greatest place in the planet. GOD BLESS!”

– David Zackrias

Health Surveillance in the Arctic: May 2018

Eleven professionals in the fields of public health and veterinary medicine from member countries of the Arctic Council traveled to Minneapolis, MN, and Anchorage and Fairbanks, AK, to explore emerging methods and programs for surveilling human, animal, and environmental health in the Arctic. The group explored topics related to zoonotic diseases—diseases that cross from animals to humans—to identify good practices that might be widely applied in the Arctic region. Participants learned how the One Health concept, which recognizes that the health of humans is connected to the health of animals and the environment, is operationalized at the local level and heard about good practices for mitigating animal disease transmission in the context of One Health. They learned about innovative education programs for training veterinary medicine students, including the One Health strategy for expanding interdisciplinary collaborations and improving communication among stakeholders in human, animal, and environmental health. They also examined techniques for detecting biological pathogens and chemical contaminants in wild animals and learned how researchers analyze and communicate those observations.

Participants:

Sharon Edmunds, Senior Research Advisor, Social and Cultural Development Department, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.

Michele LeBlanc-Havard, Territorial Environmental Health Specialist, Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Department of Health, Government of Nunavut

Dr. Emily Jenkins, Associate Professor, Veterinary Public Health and Food Safety, Department of Veterinary Microbiology, Western College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Saskatchewan
Kevan Cameron, Youth Ambassador Leader 2014, has moved to Ottawa, where he is working on several projects. This past winter he performed spoken word poetry at The Metro in Chicago as a part of the Raw Artists’ ENVISION showcase and at the Vancouver Public Library Central Branch for Black History Month as a part of the Black Dot Roots and Culture Collective project SCRUFFMOUTH: Spoken Notebook. Cameron recently attended the Tenth Annual Charles Town Maroon Conference in Jamaica.

Bernard Saint-Laurent, IVLP 1985, received a lifetime achievement award in May 2018 for his outstanding work in the field of journalism. Saint-Laurent retired from his position as CBC’s senior political analyst in Québec in 2015. Read more on CBC.ca: “Bernard St-Laurent to Receive Lifetime Achievement Award.”

Fabienne Colas, IVLP 2017, Receives Canada’s 2018 “Top 40 Under 40” Award

Congratulations to Fabienne Colas for being selected for the Top 40 Under 40 award for the outstanding work achieved by the Fabienne Colas Foundation (FCF) in building bridges through the arts by supporting diversity and education. Colas is President and Founder of FCF and the Montréal, Toronto, Halifax Black Film Festivals. The foundation was recognized for the seven festivals it put together to break barriers, celebrate diversity, and foster togetherness and inclusion. Since its start in 2005, FCF has showcased and supported more than 2,000 artists and attracted nearly 1 million festivalgoers in Canada, the United States, and Haiti. For more information, see: http://fondationfabiennecolas.org/


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Learn about the rise of German board games and their effect on the gaming industry in this January 2018 Atlantic article by Jonathan Kay, IVLP 2001: “The Invasion of the German Board Games.” For more of Kay’s articles, visit: https://muckrack.com/jonkay/articles


Jecrois is the founder of Technovation Montréal and shared an interview published by the non-profit Target Alpha in which she speaks of her IVLP experience and how it brought her to launch Technovation Montréal.

Learn about the rise of German board games and their effect on the gaming industry in this January 2018 Atlantic article by Jonathan Kay, IVLP 2001: “The Invasion of the German Board Games.” For more of Kay’s articles, visit: https://muckrack.com/jonkay/articles

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Tyler Mugford, Youth Ambassador 2016, a journalism student at the College of the North Atlantic and an intern at CBC Newfoundland and Labrador, wrote the following story about his family’s experiences with residential schools, published in June 2018 for National Indigenous Peoples Day: “Buried Memories: My Family and Residential Schools in Labrador.” Mr. Mugford was born and raised in Cartwright, Newfoundland. You can read more about him and his views on residential schools in the Ryerson Review of Journalism article, “When Reconciliation Talks Arrive at J-School.”
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