



# Uncle Sam in the 6ix



A NEWSLETTER BROUGHT TO YOU BY  
THE U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL TORONTO'S PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION



## SECURITY COOPERATION

### Project Blackheath Charges Child Predators

Five people have been charged after the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) concluded an investigation Blackheath involving Ontario-based supplier of millions of child pornography images and videos.

## CULTURE

### Consulate Joins Global Tech Conference to Tout U.S.

The Consulate joined one of the world's largest tech conferences to promote U.S. investment and STEM education. More than 25,000 attendees from 125 countries were present at the Collision Conference.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### Fostering dialogue on cross-border corridor economic development

The U.S. Consulate Toronto, in partnership with the University at Buffalo hosted a dialogue that brought together binational experts across sectors to foster dialogue on cross-border corridor economic development.



## CONSULATE MARCHES AT PRIDE TORONTO

On June 23, the U.S Consulate Toronto marched in Pride Toronto for the second year. CG Stanford led the Consulate's staff and families in the parade to support the protection and advancement of human rights for LGBT communities worldwide. Toronto Pride is one of the largest Pride celebrations in the world.

## CONSULATE JOINS GLOBAL TECH CONFERENCE TO TOUT U.S.

The Consulate joined one of the world's largest tech conferences to promote U.S. investment and STEM education. More than 25,000 attendees from 125 countries were present at the Collision Conference — the first of three years Toronto will host this prestigious event. Along with welcoming the many U.S. cities and states represented at this event, the Consulate hosted its own booth to share information about SelectUSA's services. With support from SelectUSA, the Consulate recruited for its Investment Summit, participated in matchmaking meetings and networking with Canadian companies interested in U.S. expansion, and supported U.S. participation during the conference. The Consulate also highlighted EducationUSA materials for students interested in STEM majors. Consul General Stanford visited the fair to meet U.S. participants and support the event.



## CANADA'S INNOVATION CORRIDOR SUMMIT



At the 2nd annual Canada's Innovation Corridor Summit on June 11, 2019, Consul General Greg Stanford joined Head of Silicon Valley Bank Barbara Dirks on stage for a fireside chat. A discussion evolved around advanced manufacturing, taking risks, talent retention, emerging technology, and VC funding.

Canada's Innovation Corridor is anchored by the Greater Toronto & Hamilton Area (GTHA) and Waterloo regions – a high growth economic zone in Southern Ontario defined by a dense cluster of advanced manufacturing and technology firms. The long-term goal of the summit is to inform and drive transformational actions that shape the corridor's future as a world-class region measured by talent, productivity and quality of life.

## REMEMBERING D-DAY

CG Stanford joined the City of Toronto's D-Day Remembrance Ceremony with veterans and their families on June 6, 2019. D-Day helped forge a transatlantic bond that continues to ensure the freedom of millions and the Consulate was honored to participate in a ceremony commemorating thousands of lives lost that day. Separately, Kendra Kirkland, Management Officer, attended D-Day Remembrance Ceremony at Queen's Park along with Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Premier Doug Ford and other dignitaries.



## U.S. CONSULATE TORONTO PARTNERS WITH CANADA MUSIC WEEK 2019

The U.S. Consulate in Toronto partnered with Canada Music Week (CMW) 2019 by hosting a performance featuring Kansas City-based singer songwriter and international touring recording artist Kelley Hunt. CMW is Canada's largest industry conference and music festival. One of the features of this year's CMW was "Hear the Music, Experience the USA" which highlighted U.S. tourism destinations and the music that drives them as entertainment destinations. CG Stanford offered remarks at the opening of the event. A networking reception featured a meet and greet with BrandUSA, Air Canada and U.S. exhibitors. Kelley also performed at a Toronto hotspot; her concerts promoted American music as well as tourism to America's heartland.



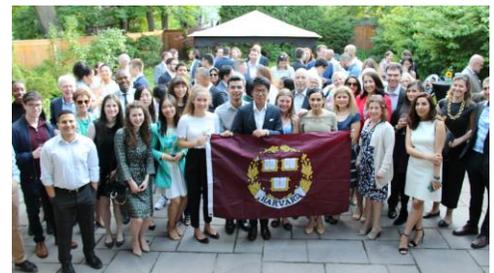
## STUDENT SEND-OFF TO TOP U.S. UNIVERSITIES



The Consulate and EducationUSA organized its first-ever pre-departure orientation for students attending universities and colleges in the U.S. this fall. The orientation was led by EducationUSA advisor Jenika Heim. PAO Anne Seshadri gave opening remarks and Consular Officer Grace Chung offered tips on crossing the border and student visa regulations. In addition to briefing new students, the event served as a celebration of their academic and extra-curricular accomplishments. The students, who graduated from a range of Toronto public and private schools, are headed to top U.S. universities including University of

California Berkeley, Harvard, and the University of Pennsylvania. Students received gift bags and snapped photos with their college pennants. With almost 100 percent attendance from students and parents alike, the orientation was a major success, promoting educational exchange and awareness. Canada is the 5th largest sender of foreign students to U.S. universities.

On June 25, 2018, CG Stanford and Mrs. Stanford hosted a reception at their residence for newly admitted students to Harvard University. Guests included incoming undergraduate and graduate students, their parents, spouses, Harvard Club alumni, interviewers and Consulate staff. The Harvard Club of Toronto, founded in 1904, is one of the oldest Harvard Clubs in the world with over 240 members and close to 2,000 alumni living in the Toronto area.



## CELEBRATING PRIDE WITH PODCASTS

In June 2019, and in support for Pride Toronto, the U.S. Consulate in Toronto partnered with the National Campus and Community Radio Association by funding the participation of two U.S. experts at their National Community Radio Conference, the largest gathering of non-profit community and campus radio practitioners that Canada has seen in over a decade. Through a grant, the Consulate funded the travel of U.S. experts Kathy Lu and Tobin Low, the creators of the weekly 'Nancy' podcast based out of WYNC Studios in New York. This podcast, which features a range of topics exploring the LGBTQ experience, has reached a significant North American audience within a short period of

time. Kathy and Tobin presented at the conference and engaged youth who were interested in exploring podcast development.

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On June 23, the U.S. Consulate Toronto marched in Pride Toronto for the second year. CG Stanford led the Consulate's staff and families in the parade to support the protection and advancement of human rights for LGBT communities worldwide. Toronto Pride is one of the largest Pride celebrations in the world. It is estimated that over 1 million people attended the celebration. The Consulate focused attention on the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots in New York, arguably the beginning of the LGBT rights movement in the United States. The Consulate received rousing applause along the route. The parade, led by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, was covered by mass media across Canada.



## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ADVISOR BRIEFING



The U.S. Consulate Toronto organized a briefing and networking reception with international student advisors from colleges and universities across Ontario. The briefing was led by Consular Chief Sonya Tsiros, who provided an overview of the visa application process and broader consular outreach program. EducationUSA adviser Jenika Heim and Public Affairs Officer Anne Seshadri also delivered remarks highlighting academic exchange opportunities available to students studying in Canada. The briefing and reception were attended by over fifty International student advisors from

across Ontario, and enabled the consulate to strengthen its relationship with key contacts in education. Through engagement with these student advisors, the consulate continues explore new and unique ways to increase bilateral educational cooperation between the U.S. and Canada.

## CONSULAR OUTREACH: NATIONAL ETHNIC PRESS AND MEDIA COUNCIL OF CANADA PRESENTATION

On June 10, 2019 Consular Chief Sonya Tsiros presented to the National Ethnic Press and Media Council of Canada including around 70 representatives of various ethnic media outlets. This engagement was an excellent way to reach out to media representing the Consulate's diverse visa pool and to highlight recent updates to visa policy, including new social media identifiers. After the presentation, Sonya answered questions related to visas.



The National Ethnic Press and Media Council of Canada is a non-profit organization established since 1958 with a mission to promote and integrate economic, social and culture interests of ethnic communities into the mainstream of Canadian society. NEPMCC brings together 660 member publications, printing in about 110 languages along with 150 radio and television stations, websites and TV producers, directors and journalists.

## FOSTERING DIALOGUE ON CROSS-BORDER CORRIDOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



The U.S. Consulate Toronto, in partnership with the University at Buffalo (UB) hosted a May 16 dialogue that brought together binational experts across sectors to foster dialogue on cross-border corridor economic development. General Stanford and Deputy Canadian Consul General from New York Khawar Nassim opened the dialogue, pledging their commitment to further bilateral trade and investment.

A significant portion of the day's events focused on education. Panelists noted a significant portion of the Buffalo-Niagara-

Southern Ontario corridor's cross-border flow centers on student mobility, making both academic institutions and business industries jointly responsible for developing the region. The President of Niagara Region's Chamber of Commerce said Brock University and Niagara College have the ability to leverage post-secondary research to support the region's new, innovative sectors, including the automotive and agriculture industries. He added that both competition and collaboration between U.S. and Canadian universities is crucial to the development of "big ideas" for the region's future.

The dialogue was well received, with one prominent U.S. voice from the bilateral business community saying it was "one of the most important events" he has attended this year. Participants credited the dialogue as a good starting point for sharing best practices on building ties that can help drive innovative growth on both sides of the border.

## PROJECT BLACKHEATH CHARGES CHILD PREDATORS

Five people have been charged after the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) concluded an investigation known as Blackheath involving Ontario-based supplier of millions of child pornography images and videos. OPP collaborated with the Toronto Police Service and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)'s Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) on this investigation. Through joint operations, HSI works closely with Canadian partners to arrest child predators and rescue victims. Based on leads provided from OPP and Toronto Police, HSI initiated over 50 criminal investigations and arrested multiple child predators. HSI/US Consulate Toronto Rep. Daniel Hittner spoke to reporters at the press conference.



## CG GREG STANFORD DELIVERS REMARKS AT GREAT LAKES ECONOMIC FORUM

CG Greg Stanford delivered remarks at the Great Lakes Economic Forum on May 7 in Cleveland, OH. This speaking engagement was part of a cross-border conversation about economic, security, environmental, education, and cultural ties in the region and working together to advance shared priorities. Consul General from the Canadian Consulate in Detroit, Joe Comartin, the Mayors of Niagara Falls, New York, and Hamilton, ON and a number of government officials in addition to forum participants from industry, academia, and the non-profit sector in the Great Lakes were present at the event.



During his remarks CG Greg Stanford focused on initiatives for boosting tech and innovation cooperation between the two countries on a provincial level. He spoke about modernizing our workforce by broadening STEM education, especially to diverse audiences, as well as a values-based approach to the adoption and acceleration of emerging technologies. Highlighting the Consulate's work with local partners to leverage technology and innovation for economic growth and shared prosperity, CG Stanford emphasized the role of bilateral cooperation in nurturing cross-border collaboration in innovation and technology as well

as research and science, with a goal to shaping a unified, stronger, and more competitive North America.

## CITY OF AUSTIN VISITS TORONTO

Public Affairs Toronto organized a breakfast with the City of Austin, TX who visited Toronto on a fact-finding mission. Austin visitors included State Representatives, the Economic Development Office, and officials from the University of Texas-Austin. The group was interested in learning more about higher education and business partnerships in the region; specific areas for opportunity include creative industries, life sciences, and artificial intelligence.

The U.S. Consulate encourages city-to-city partnerships with a particular focus on U.S. cities with a large tech and innovation sector.



## CG STANFORD VISITS OAKVILLE, ONTARIO



On May 2, Consul General Greg Stanford met with Mayor Rob Burton during his visit to Oakville, a suburb outside of Toronto known for a large concentration of U.S. companies. CG Stanford was also greeted by Oakville Chamber of Commerce. Oakville Chamber of Commerce is the leading voice and champion for business in that region. Later that day, CG Stanford toured the Ford Canada Assembly Complex to learn more about Ford's innovation and research focusing on vehicle sustainability and fuel efficiency capacity. The last stop during CG Stanford's visit was the

Weather Network. The Weather Network generates more than 12 billion page views per year, and it is considered as one of the most popular specialty networks in North America.

## CG GREG STANFORD DELIVERS REMARKS AT THE ALBANY CLUB

CG Stanford delivered a speech at the Albany Club on June 6 before an august audience that included former Ontario Premier Mike Harris. The Albany Club in Toronto bills itself as the premier private club for leaders in Canada's business and Conservative political spheres. CG Stanford discussed his interest in tech and innovation as the future of the bilateral relationship, including opportunities for policy harmonization, mobility for students, and a shared value-based approach to



the adoption and acceleration of emerging technologies. Additionally, CG Stanford emphasized the importance of cybersecurity and highlighted opportunities in the U.S., Mexico and Canada trade agreement (USMCA), and advocated increased partnership between Canada and the U.S. to grow our prosperity and counter threats.

## CONSUL GENERAL VISITS BARRIE, ONTARIO

Consul General Greg Stanford visited the city of Barrie in Ontario on June 27. During this introductory trip he met with Barrie Mayor Jeff Lehman, with whom he discussed the bilateral trade ties that link the municipality to the United States. The CG also met with the President of Barrie's Georgian College to discuss strategies to increase student mobility between the two countries. The CG attended a round table of CEOs at the Barrie Chamber of Commerce to discuss Canada-U.S. economic cooperation at the sub national level as the local manufacturing industry depends on U.S. based plants for employment opportunities. During the visit, the CG gave an interview to Simcoe.com.



### U.S. Consulate General Toronto

360 University, Toronto, ON M5G 1S4

Email: [TurdievaM@state.gov](mailto:TurdievaM@state.gov)

Phone: (416) 595-1700

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