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Conference Introduction and Welcome Proceedings of the Canada-United States Law Institute Conference on Multiple Actors in Canada-U.S. Relations: Conference Introduction and Welcome

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CONFERENCE INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

Henry T. King, Jr.
Introduction

Well, thank you, Sidney, I hope I live up to your wonderful remarks. I wanted to outline our plan for the Institute this weekend.

Canada and the United States have the longest undefended border in the world¹ and a very intense economic relationship.

Yet, many feel that at the highest levels in Washington, that Canada does not always get the attention that it deserves and that Canada is frequently neglected. The Institute provides a forum that offers an opportunity to discuss issues that are important to both parties.

The published proceedings of the conference - this conference will provide a record that will be a useful frame of reference in many aspects of Canada-U.S. relations.

The purpose of this conference is to examine a number of areas where the overall Canadian and American interest may diverge or coincide and thereby to allow our conference participants to assess their effect on the overall Canada-U.S. relationship. That will start with an overview of the players in the Canada-U.S. relations by two officials from Canada and the United States who have been on the front line in dealing with the Canada-U.S. relationship.

Our U.S. Speaker is Gordon Giffin, a former U.S. Ambassador to Canada, and our Canadian speaker is Robert Rae, the former Premier of Ontario.

Their experience in dealing with cross-border issues is firsthand, and they will get our conference off to a good start.

Our second session will be devoted to Canada-U.S. competition for inward investments. What is at stake here is jobs and the fight over jobs is a hot issue in the U.S. political campaign and in Canada.

Moderated by Jamie Sisto, formerly Director of Ohio International Trade Division and now with Squires, Sanders and Dempsey and also with John Schjeldahl of the Austin Company and Nathan Green of the Cleveland Cuyahoga Port Authority as our speakers, this session should be very relevant in a world in which jobs are at a premium.

¹ Christopher H. Lytton, *America's Borders and Civil Liberties in a Post-September 11th World*, 12 J. Transnat'l L. & Pol'y 197, 210.

Our luncheon session will deal with an issue that is most important in the overall context of Canada-U.S. relationship, namely the role of non-governmental organizations in shaping cross-border perspective.

Professor Matt Shaffer of the Nebraska School of Law is eminently qualified by virtue of his experience to discuss this important subject.

In today's world, given the threats to Canada-U.S. national security and yet the need to preserve and facilitate our economic relationship, border infrastructure, cross-border customs and immigration challenges need close attention.

James Phillips of the Can/Am Board Trade Alliance and Michael Nobrega of Borealis Infrastructure Management Corp. are our speakers for this post-luncheon session.

We have styled our next session as Environment: Garrison Dam, Columbia River, the IJC, and NGO's. Given the length of the Canada-U.S. border and its varied context, it is, indeed, a natural matter that cross-border environmental issues would be an area that needs addressing in a conference such as this, which is scoping the influence of actors in Canada-U.S. relations.

Professor John Knox of Pennsylvania State Dickinson Law School, former U.S. State Department Lawyer and Professor Nigel Bankes of the University of Calgary are very qualified to lead our discussion in this important subject area.

Our evening session on day one of the conference will be devoted to the role of the media in public perception in cross-border relations, with David Crane of the Toronto Star as moderator, we are indeed pleased to have Jim Strang of the Cleveland Plain Dealer and Giles Gherson of the Toronto Globe and Mail as our speakers.

They will address the matter of how the media effects public perceptions of the Canada-U.S. relationship.

We shall open Day 2 of our conference with a discussion of fisheries. This session will cover the various players in the fisheries area, mainly fishers, natives, sportsmen, states and provinces.

To guide us through this complex area, we have two very capable guides and David Colson of the U.S. and Don McRae of Canada, both have been directly involved in major Canada-U.S. fish controversy.

Our next session on Day 2 will deal with steel. Steel has long been a center of focus between Canada and the United States.

Charles Blum who has wide experience with the U.S. government in trade negotiations, Barry Lacombe, President of the Canadian Steel Producers' Association will be our speakers for this session.

Their broad, collective experience on each side of the border should make for an interesting discussion on the many facets of this subject.

Our luncheon speaker on Day 2 of the conference will deal with the place of Quebec in North America. We are, indeed, fortunate to have Pierre-Marc

Johnson, former Premier of Quebec, as our speaker for this important session.

Our early afternoon session on Day 2 of the conference will deal with agricultural issues involving Canada and the United States. The agricultural segment of the Canada-U.S. relationship is growing in importance and needs attention.

We are pleased to have Audrae Erickson of the Corn Refiners' Association and Professor Peter Phillips of the University of Saskatchewan as our speakers for this session.

Our late afternoon session on Day 2 will deal with the Arctic and energy. Unfortunately, Bill Mogel, our U.S. projected speaker for this session was unable to be us with because his wife is very ill.

We shall therefore rely on two Canadian speakers and our presider, Jon Groetzinger, to enlighten us on the issues projected for discussion.

These speakers are Chief Joe Linklater and Caribou Coordinator, Sandra Newman of the Vuntut Gwitchin Old Crow, Yukon. Those who have heard them have been deeply impressed.

Our evening session on Day 2 of the conference will deal with western regionalism and with Cascadia, a western regional organization that deals with cross-border cooperation between British Columbia, Washington, and Oregon.

Jim Phillips of the Canada Trade Alliance will be substituting for Charles Kelly of Canada and Gordon Rogers of the U.S. and Deputy Director of the Whatcom Council of Governments will be our speakers on this subject of Cascadia and western regionalism.

Our Sunday morning session will deal with federalism in North America and its effect on Canada-U.S. relations. We are, indeed, fortunate to have Representative Stephen Buehrer, Assistant Majority Leader of the Ohio House of Representatives, and Peter Dobell of the Parliamentary Centre of Canada for the speakers for this session.

Here we will be looking at key international issues and how they impact the states and provinces and at regional issues and how they impact on Canada-U.S. relations at the national level.

The scope of our conference program this year is particularly broad so we need to get on with it right away.

