

'Crossing Borders - Issues & Resolutions'
United States - Canadian University Student Conference
Seattle WA / 15-16 March 2007

Canada and the United States share one of the world's longest borders and are each others largest trading partners. Canada is America's largest supplier of crude oil, natural gas and electricity. The U.S. and Canada are allies in the War on Terror and have been partners in NORAD for decades. However, as in most relationships, challenges and differences do exist.

EVENT / DATES

The Consulate General of Canada Seattle, in collaboration with the Pacific Northwest Canadian Studies Consortium, Canada America Society, Pacific Northwest Economic Region, World Affairs Council and Border Policy Research Institute, is organizing a two-day Student Conference to focus on the US-Canada border and issues of importance in the bi-lateral relationship.

After arrival in Seattle on Thursday 15 March, the students will travel to the US-Canada border Port of Entry at Blaine WA / Surrey BC for presentations and tours organized by the Canada Border Services Agency and US Customs and Border Protection. Students will learn about the operations of both agencies and how they partner to secure the border against threats while expediting travel for legitimate trade and commerce. The day will conclude with a Welcome Dinner in Bellingham, Washington and return to Seattle.

On Friday 16 March the Conference will entail 4 panel presentations. The Microsoft Auditorium in the new downtown Seattle Public Library will be the venue. Each panel will focus on an issue of importance to Canada and the United States and last 90 minutes. Each panel will have two teams. Each team will be composed of one American and one Canadian student. Each team will be tasked with researching, presenting and explaining the issue assigned (the American student will present the American position and the Canadian student will present the Canadian position). Each team will suggest a resolution / solution. A moderator and members of the audience will be invited to ask questions and / or challenge the presentations and resolutions of two teams. The audience and a team of judges will select the team deemed to have made the best presentation and proffering the most convincing resolution / solution. The day will conclude with an Awards Reception / Dinner at the Seattle College Club.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY / SELECTION

A total of 16 students will be selected. Eight American and eight Canadian. Students must be full-time undergraduates attending a university in Washington, Idaho, Oregon, British Columbia or Alberta that is a member of the Pacific Northwest Canadian Studies Consortium. No more than two students will be selected from any one university. Interested students must complete the attached application and submit it no later than 15 January 2007. Successful applicants will be notified by 1 February. Students will be paired (one American and one Canadian for each of the 8 teams) and assigned their issue upon notification. Students are invited to work with their faculty advisors to see if this may qualify as an independent study to earn course credit.

TEAMS / ISSUES

The American students will present the American position. The Canadian students will present the Canadian position. But each team will need to communicate and work together beforehand to organize their presentations and agree upon a resolution / solution.

The issues to be assigned will involve one of the following:

1. Border Security / WHTI, Minutemen, National Guard, Physical Barrier, SBI, PASS card, Real ID (driver licenses), Perimeter Clearance, Visa harmonization
2. Northwest Passage / Sovereign Canadian waters or International waters
3. Arctic National Wildlife Refuge / Oil Drilling or Preservation
4. Health Care / National (Universal) health care or US system
5. Columbia River Basin / Columbia River Treaty
6. Gay Marriage / Gays in Military

FUNDING

The Canadian Consulate General is the principal sponsor of the conference. Students will be provided with travel funds (airplane ticket or mileage), two nights shared accommodation in Seattle, ground transportation for the Border Tour and meals.

AWARDS / PRIZES

One team from each panel will be selected for making the best presentation and proffering the best resolution. From those four teams one team will be selected as the overall top presenter. Awards and prizes to be confirmed.

APPLICATION
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Personal Information

Name. _____ M or F (Circle) Age _____

University attending. _____ Date of graduation. _____

Course of study. _____

Mailing address. _____

Email. _____

Phone number. _____

Passport / Country of Issuance. _____

Personal Statement

On a separate piece of paper (no more than one typed page) identify 3 issues of the 6 listed on this application that you would be interested in presenting and why you would like to participate in this International Student event.

Letters of Recommendation

Obtain two letters of recommendation. One must be from a professor you have taken a class with and one from any other member of your university staff or faculty.

Mail complete application package to:

Kevin Cook
Academic Officer
Canadian Consulate General
1501 Fourth Avenue, Suite 600
Seattle, WA USA 98101

Application deadline: 15 January 2007