

Embassy of Canada



Ambassade du Canada

501 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Canadians and Friends in the United States,

My thanks go to your alma mater for passing on this message. I hope you were able to celebrate our great country on Canada Day, maybe with a barbecue, or with some friends, or maybe at one of the Canadian Consulates, or with just a phone call back home!

I had the pleasure of hosting my first Canada Day as Ambassador in Washington. At that time, we launched an exciting initiative, designed to create a network of people, like yourself, with a bond to Canada, so you can be connected with each other and stay informed about key issues in Canada-U.S. relations. To learn more, please visit Connect2Canada at www.connect2canada.com/a/.

The initial response to the launch has been overwhelmingly positive, with many people throughout the U.S. visiting the site, signing up to get information, and passing on the link to friends and family. As a follow-up to this initial success, I am reaching out to you as alumni or those of you who are members of Canadian clubs, societies, or on-line groups, in the hope of building this larger network of people who share a Canadian bond. You are part of a vanguard group that I am approaching. I need your help to make this network reach its full potential. Your role and input is crucial.

I would like to know what you would want from this network--news updates? -- how to meet with Canadians in your area? Tell us how we can make Connect2Canada work for you. Please visit www.connect2canada.com/a/ today, and give us your feedback.

Many Canadians here have talked to me about the importance of being connected as a group across the United States and have told me that in their interactions with Americans they would like to have facts at their disposal about what Canada has done in the world, as well as facts about the Canada-U.S. relationship. Many facts will be made available as we start to build our new website. For instance, did you know ...?

- Canada is the United States' largest source of imported crude oil - more than Saudi Arabia - or that Canada has the world's second largest proven oil reserves. Much of that oil is located in the Alberta oilsands, an area that contains at least 175 billion barrels of recoverable oil located under an area approximately the size of New York State.
- We have rotated 13,500 troops in the war on terror, over 40,000 troops through the Balkans since 1991, committed \$300 million dollars to reconstruction in Iraq, and that we are about to deploy a major Provincial Reconstruction Team in Kandahar, one of the most dangerous regions in Afghanistan.
- Contrary to what some pundits say, none of the September 11, 2001 terrorists entered the United States from Canada.
- Canada-U.S. trade, at more than \$1.5 billion US per day, supports over five million jobs in the United States, and two million in Canada, or that our shared Smart Border helps ensure the safe and secure trade of over 200 million border crossings per year.

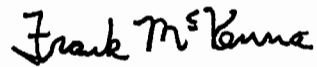
Canada

I encourage you to use this site as it grows, not just to connect with other Canadians, but to find useful information on consular, immigration, and other services, as well as on key issues in the Canada-U.S. relationship. I also hope you will sign up to be a part of the Connect2Canada network.

I look to you, as the vanguard of this network, to share this idea with others. If you know of other Canadians in the U.S. or people with Canadian connections interested in joining this network, please visit <http://www.Connect2Canada.com/spreadtheword/> to forward an e-mail to them and to encourage them to get involved.

With best wishes for the summer, I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank McKenna". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Frank McKenna
Ambassador