

Krauss has chronicled the areas where Canada and the U.S. appear to be diverging, especially on cultural issues such as gay marriage and the decriminalization of marijuana. But he says he “realized the countries weren’t Siamese twins” when he was first posted to Toronto three years ago. “I’m never surprised by these differences and never see them as something out of the ordinary.”

The capacity for the U.S. and Canada to collaborate has always impressed him, Krauss says—never more so than during a previous posting to Peru, when the two countries were instrumental in aiding the peaceful transition of power following the term of President Alberto Fujimori. “There was an example I saw before my own eyes of Canada and the U.S. working together and being extremely effective,” he says, “where each did things it couldn’t do on its own.”

Trade shows a similar depth of cooperation; while periodic and often cyclical disagreements in areas such as softwood lumber, cattle and wheat grab headlines, a staggering \$1.8 billion in goods and services crosses the Canada-U.S. border every day.

“The relationship is strong and comprehensive,” says Peter Boehm, the incoming Assistant Deputy Minister for North America at Foreign Affairs Canada. “We are each other’s most important partner.”

The term used to describe this partnership in Ottawa and Washington is “intermestic”: while international in the sense that it involves two sovereign nations, it encompasses the economy, environment, security and other areas of domestic policy on both sides of the border.

“The political relationship and the policy relationship are akin to the trading relationship,” Boehm observes, “in that the vast majority of it goes very smoothly. We work things out.”

Enhanced Representation in the U.S.

Canada continues to foster that relationship today through the Enhanced Representation Initiative, which has seen the addition or upgrading of consulates and the appointment of new honorary consuls throughout the U.S., especially in the South and Southwest. Such efforts will increase Canada’s presence in the country to advance trade, investment and knowledge sharing.

Karen Matthias, who recently became the Canadian Consul in Anchorage, Alaska, one of the newest of the Canadian missions, says the initiative “is very much a partnership of several government departments,” including Industry Canada and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, created to increase Canada’s representation. “It’s about getting rid of ‘stovepipes’ and having greater coordination in our efforts.”

Expanded presence: As part of the Enhanced Representation Initiative, the Government of Canada has opened seven new consulates in the U.S. and is upgrading two consulates to consulates general (shown on the map by flags), bringing Canada’s representation in the country to 22 offices. As well, 20 honorary consuls are being appointed in important U.S. cities where there are no Canadian government offices to champion our interests. These initiatives reinforce Canada’s presence in the U.S., particularly in the South and Southwest.

