



Centre for
Legislative Exchange

Centre d'échanges
législatifs

Barbara Reynolds
Executive Director
Directrice exécutive

Fourth Floor, 250 Albert Street
Ottawa, Canada K1P 6M1
Tel: (613) 297-6140
Fax: (613) 295-4837
E-mail: leg21@external.crest.ca

Dept. of Foreign Affairs
Min. des Affaires étrangères
Ottawa, Canada K1P 6M1
Tel: (613) 297-6140
Fax: (613) 295-4837
E-mail: leg21@external.crest.ca
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REPORT ON VISIT TO CANADA GREAT LAKES ISSUES November 1995

Background

On July 18, 1995 a contribution agreement with the Centre for Legislative Exchange was approved for up to \$40,000 to arrange educational visits to Canada for U.S. legislators and officials. The agreement provided that once this sum had been expended, additional visits could be arranged. All visits were to be completed by March 31, 1997.

Report on Visit to Canada Great Lakes Issues

With the change from a grant to a contribution agreement during the fiscal year 1995-96, the Centre had worked out procedures with officials at headquarters in Ottawa and the Canadian Embassy in Washington for consultation about possible subjects and, particularly where staff were involved, about possible invitees.

Determining the topics for visits took considerable time and effort on both sides. Once the agreement had been signed, the Centre initiated discussions with the Department about possible visits, dates, participants and size of groups. Considerable time was spent determining how visits focused on bilateral issues might help to build awareness of Canadian foreign policy issues among U.S. legislators.

In early October the Canadian Embassy determined that it would be preferable to organize one major visit on Great Lakes issues that would use approximately three-quarters of the funding rather than a number of smaller visits. Originally, this topic had been proposed during the 1995-96 fiscal year and indeed some preliminary work had been undertaken on visit. However, Embassy officials had concluded that the timing was not suitable as the federal and provincial governments were still working out a common approach to various issues.

The Centre has had a long involvement in organizing visits on issues relating to the Great Lakes, starting with a 1985 bilateral visit to Burlington, Toronto and Mackinac. This was followed in 1989 with another bilateral visit to Windsor and Detroit and a further bilateral visit in 1991 to Quebec City. Shortly after the 1994 congressional elections, the Centre also co-sponsored a Roundtable on the Great Lakes for U.S. and Canadian legislators in Washington D.C. in January 1995.

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