

Harley Trudeau of the Executive Council Office of Yukon government, raised the need to overcome barriers for northern institutions to access federal educational and research grants; the current criteria frequently excludes them.

Canada-United States Relations

The roundtable was held the same day that Prime Minister Jean Chretien and President George W. Bush met for the first time. Roger Simmons, Consul General of Canada in Seattle, said that the hype that Chretien and Bush may disagree was predictable. When they meet, "it's about leaders dealing with how things are," he said. Bush is a strong supporter of a Free Trade Area of the Americas.

"If the border works, the relationship works." Simmons described the Canada-United States relationship as primarily an economic relationship, citing USD \$1.3 billion of product per day crossing the border and that this relationship is even stronger on the Canadian side of the border. While the United States has invested USD \$212 billion in Canada, Canadians have invested USD \$145 billion in the United States, a per capita investment ratio of seven-to-one, in favor of the United States. "You'll see examples of having two flags and one community" all along the border.

Despite these facts, Canada and the United States, especially among citizens, can and should form stronger bonds.

"We have not done enough to maximize the economic, academic and cultural relations between Canada and Alaska," he said. With regard to the Alaska Nature and Wildlife Reserve and plans for an installation of a gas pipeline, Simmons said Canada needs to be aware of the clout of the United States and react appropriately. Industry will decide the viability of the pipeline and Canada will facilitate their choice, he said, adding within the regulations and law of the land.

The State Department of the United States says if you deal with the United States, deal with the Alaskans, said Wayne Lord.

Pipelines and Drilling

When it comes to exploiting the natural resources of the Alaska Nature and Wildlife Reserve, Simmons said the US Congress will be the battleground and it may have a more conservationist attitude than that of President Bush. He also described Alaska politicians, Governor Tony Knowles, Alaska's sole Congressman Don Young, and Senators Ted Stevens and Frank Murkowski - all Republicans - as well-placed senior politicians. Young chairs the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Stevens chairs the Senate Appropriations Committee, and Murkowski chairs the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. (Both Stevens and Murkowski have voted in favour of drilling in the Alaska Nature and Wildlife Reserve.) Together they influence more than a trillion dollars of federal government funds. Fostering good