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"CONGRESSWOMAN STEFANIK LEADS MISSION TO MONTREAL"

North Country
Congresswoman
Elise Stefanik, in
partnership with the



North Country Chamber of Commerce, led a special mission to Montreal on August 17-18, focusing on key sectors of opportunity for enhanced collaboration between the North Country and Quebec. Joining the Congresswoman were New

York State Senator Betty Little; Dr. Tony Collins, President of Clarkson University; Garry Douglas, President of the North Country Chamber of Commerce; Patrick Kelly, Executive Director of the St. Lawrence County Industrial Development Agency; Carol Calabrese, Executive Director of the Essex County IDA; Susan Matton, V.P. for Economic Development at the North Country Chamber; and staff.

Douglas and Collins also serve as Co-Chairs of Governor Cuomo's North Country Regional Economic Development Council, bringing a particular focus on collaborations in support of the Council's economic development strategies and priorities.

Activities included a meeting with the Hon. Christine St. Pierre, Quebec Minister for International Relations; a dinner hosted by Nina Fite, U.S. Consul General in Montreal at her residence; a working breakfast with leaders of FPIInnovations, Canada's forest product innovation center headquartered in Pointe-Claire; briefings at Montreal International, including an overview of MI's strategies and priorities, along with briefings and discussions with Aero Montreal (Montreal's aerospace cluster), Cargo M (Montreal's transportation and logistics cluster) and McGill University's Institute for Advanced Materials.

There was then a working lunch with a dozen specially invited guests representing various partners and interests, followed by a meeting with several young entrepreneurs gathered by Montreal's Circle of Young Leaders. Then a briefing on homeland security related matters at the U.S. Consulate General and a high level briefing and discussion on clean energy at Hydro Quebec.

Each meeting was insightful and valuable, with several substantive follow-ups already underway. We thank Congresswoman Stefanik for leading this special and important visit, and we thank all of our Quebec friends for their assistance with all of the arrangements, particularly the Quebec Government, Montreal International and the U.S. Consulate General.

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"BE SURE TO SIGN-UP WITH COREX!"

COREX Opportunities, the major new web platform created to facilitate business to business interactions between Quebec and its neighbors, including New York State, is now fully open and accessible to all.

We encourage businesses, organizations, educational institutions and others who have or would like to pursue potential interactions with Quebec businesses and partners to visit the site today and register, and then begin using it regularly to post and look for opportunities and connections.

COREX is a project of our partners at the FCCQ (Federation des chambres de commerce du Québec) with the support of Canada and Quebec and the partnership of chambers and others in the U.S.

Please check it out now at www.corexb2b.com and then please share this information and encouragement with members and colleagues. The larger the participation base, the more valuable the platform will be for all of us as we endeavor to grow the Quebec-New York bi-national economy.

If you would like more information regarding COREX, contact Genevieve Charest-Proulx at genevieve.charestproulx@fccq.ca or [1-800-361-5019](tel:1-800-361-5019).



"CROSS BORDER PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTED"

The Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE), the organization of chamber leaders from across the U.S. and Canada, recently held its annual convention in Montreal for the first time. And we were pleased to work with ACCE to develop and present a session on cross border economic partnership between our two countries.

North Country Chamber President Garry Douglas spoke on our Quebec-New York Corridor, in part as a model for the role chambers can play in U.S.-Canada relations (being co-led by the North Country Chamber and the FCCQ). He then moderated a panel on "Partnership North America" featuring former North Country Congressman Bill Owens, Quebec Delegate General Jean-Claude Lauzon and Betty Sutton, Administrator of the St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corp.

It was an excellent opportunity to help send chamber leaders from across the continent back home with a greater awareness of the importance of the U.S.-Canada economic relationship to them and their members and regions.



**Plattsburgh
International
Airport**

"U.S. CUSTOMS COMMITS TO PLATTSBURGH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT"



In response to an official request from Governor Andrew Cuomo, U.S. Customs & Border Protection Commissioner R. Gil Kerlikowske recently provided official approval of a U.S. Customs operation at Plattsburgh International Airport to support and service international flight arrivals. The approval was announced on August 17th by U.S. Senator Charles Schumer

who has been a key supporter.

The new international arrivals facility is being created as a part of the major terminal expansion now under construction, and should be operational by early 2017. It is expected to attract and service direct international flights to destinations such as the Caribbean and Mexico, as well as facilitate the processing of other international air activity and support international events in Lake Placid.

Governor Cuomo awarded \$4.5 million toward the \$6 million cost of the Customs portion of the expanded terminal, with additional funding secured by State Senator Betty Little.