

FBI National Academy Associates Conference

Québec City, July 21, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.

Bonjour à toutes et à tous!

First, I would like to thank the executive board of the FBI National Academy Associates and the executives of the FBI for this opportunity to speak to this very impressive group today! (I am feeling a sudden urge to confess something...) Thank you and bienvenue to beautiful Québec!

A special thank you as well to Deputy Mayor Michelle Morin Doyle who made connections with the FBI at the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Quebec. A great example of how our shared Irish past forges bonds in the present, and no doubt, the future.

Many thanks to Québec City Police Chief Robert Pigeon, la Sûreté du Québec, the RCMP and all the law enforcement officials for your partnership in this event and many others. Whether for the day-to-day operations with our Consulate, during large events such as the G7 Summit in June, or during large-scale conferences like today's, your unfailing support and close partnership are very much appreciated. Merci!

I just want to say, on a personal note, how honored I am to be here. I am a former DOJ trial attorney, and I still get a thrill when I see the Department of Justice logo. I know FBI is its own entity, but still part of the Justice family. When I was sworn in, I remember the Attorney General's words: that we should always remember that we serve justice with a small j. Not the building, not the Department, but the principle. And that we should always do the right thing, even when no one is looking. I've never forgotten those words, and I've never forgotten Justice, with a big J. So, it's with great respect and admiration that I make these brief remarks to you today. Because I know you all share that devotion to justice.

As Consul General, I am also very pleased you have to come to Quebec City. The United States has had a consular presence in Quebec City since 1834, before the Canadian Federation in 1867, and we cover the entire province of Quebec, other than the Greater Montreal area, and the Arctic Territory of Nunavut. It's one of the largest consular districts in the world. We are very proud to represent the United States here, and to work together with our federal, provincial and municipal counterparts to promote U.S. interests and protect American citizens who visit and reside in our district.

You all know, better than I do, how deep our bilateral law enforcement and security cooperation goes. I could cite a long list of agreements, between multiple agencies, but I am probably the least qualified person in this room to discuss them. But let me tell what I do know.

That I have served here for two years, and I have met with nothing but incredible support and collaboration. Whether its working on trade issues – and we all know, there’s work to be done there --, political connections, or consular issues, which include deaths, arrests, missing persons, fugitives, etc., I have found the Quebeckers and Canadians nothing but willing, positive, and productive partners.

But I don’t that relationship for granted. We travel all over our consular district, meeting with people, including law enforcement, working together to further our common interests. I’ve been a diplomat for 18 years, and I’ve never seen this kind of cooperation.

Here in Québec City, we have tried to do our share in supporting security objectives. We invited the City of Quebec to participate in the Strong Cities Network and the Conference of Mayors, and provided grants to the victims of the 2017 shooting at Quebec’s mosque to attend the One World Strong commemoration event of the Boston Marathon attacks, bringing victims together to counter violent extremism.

We send local law enforcement officials to the U.S. for programs on dealing with opioid abuse, human trafficking, cyber security, and other critical topics. Now, Quebec City is lucky... (although you make your own luck, right?)... this is still one of the safest cities in North America. But these issues are out there, and we all know the toll they take on our fellow citizens, their families, our communities, and our economies.

And as much as we need those fancy agreements, with those long acronyms, we know that the foundation of all crossborder collaboration is the relationship between us. Whether its cop to cop, mayor to mayor, or citizen to citizen, that’s what drives our mutual success. And you really couldn’t have a better partnership than the one between US-Canada/Quebec.

I leave you with just a little note demonstrating the commitment of Quebeckers to the US. I spent all morning out on the beautiful Ile d’Orleans, with a group that was commemorating the legacy of Major Clement Gosselin, who was born on the island and fought with the Americans during the Revolutionary War. For his dedication to our cause, he was excommunicated and banished. Today, he came home, with a plaque and maple tree planted on his ancestral land. 242 years after our revolution, Quebeckers are still celebrating our relationship. It was moving and remarkable.

So, have a great conference, keep building these connections, and be proud of the long legacy to which you belong.

Merci, and thank you.