

July 24, 2017

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Lester B. Pearson Building
125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, ON K1A 0G2

Dear Minister Freeland:

As part of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce's work to promote the Canada-U.S. relationship in key states, and to support the Government on the Canada-U.S. file, I recently led a delegation of business representatives to Tennessee.

While in Tennessee we met with municipal, state, and business leaders in both Nashville and Memphis, and celebrated the Fourth of July there. Over the course of the week the delegation was able to show local stakeholders real life examples of how interconnected the Canadian and American economies actually are. When we visited the FedEx Shipping Centre, and CN Rail's Intermodal Hub, both in the Memphis area, we saw first-hand a stunning example of the economic and logistic interdependence that characterizes the Canada-US relationship.

My experience in Tennessee, along with my previous trips to Virginia and South Carolina, where I was able to meet with Governors McAuliffe and McMaster, have strengthened my belief that contrary to the combative rhetoric on the national level, most Americans value their relationship with Canada. In our meetings with the Chambers of Commerce of Tennessee and Memphis, I found business communities that understood the importance of the relationship between Canada and the United States, and that were keen to see it preserved and enhanced. In both Nashville and Memphis, the local Chambers were pleased to meet with members of the Canadian business community, and will be helpful in spreading Canada's message.

I would also like to recognize the excellent work of the Canadian Consulate General in Atlanta and the team at the Embassy in Washington, DC. In particular, I greatly appreciated the support of Consul General Louise Blais, as well as the assistance provided by members of her staff, Ash Miller and Cécile Landgrebe, who accompanied us to Nashville and Memphis respectively. They were invaluable in providing insight into the local environment and ensuring that the trip proceeded smoothly.

Office of the President and Chief Executive Officer | Cabinet du président et chef de la direction

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce | La Chambre de commerce du Canada

420 – 360 rue Albert Street | Ottawa, ON K1R 7X7 | T: 613.238.4000 | F: 613.238.7643 | info@chamber.ca

Chamber.ca | [Facebook](#) CanadianChamberofCommerce | [Twitter](#) @CdnChamberofCom

With planning already well underway for our next missions to Texas in August, and to Georgia in October, I look forward to getting to work with your diplomats again, and in continuing the work we've started to highlight the importance of Canada-U.S. trade. If you'd like to discuss this mission or any of our efforts, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,



Honourable Perrin Beatty
President and Chief Executive Officer
The Canadian Chamber of Commerce