Rep. Mike Cuffe

Representative
Montana State Legislature

Mike Cuffe is a native of Lincoln County, Montana. He graduated from Lincoln County High School and earned his degree in Journalism from the University of Montana at Missoula. Mike started his career as a journalist working in the newspaper business in Libby, Montana. These skills eventually enabled him to participate in politics on a national level as a staffer for a Montana Congressman in Washington DC. Upon his return to Montana, Mike was recruited by the timber industry and achieved top management positions throughout his extensive career in the development of the wood products business in Lincoln County. Mike returned to his communications background and successfully ran Big Sky Publishing in Eureka, Montana.

Laurie Trautman

Director
Border Policy Research Institute at WWU

Dr. Laurie Trautman is the Director of the Border Policy Research Institute at Western Washington University. She engages in a range of research activities focused on the U.S. - Canada border, particularly in the region surrounding Washington State and British Columbia. Topics include trade, transportation, immigration, and environmental management. In addition to her role on campus working with faculty and students, she collaborates with the private sector and government agencies to advance policy solutions that balance the flow of goods and individuals with the need for efficiency and security at the border. Laurie participates in a number of working groups that analyze the U.S. – Canada relationship, including the Pacific Northwest Economic Region, the International Mobility and Trade Corridor Program, the Canada - U.S. Transportation Border Working Group, and the North American Leader's Summit Stakeholder Dialogue.
Speakers:

Denis Stevens
Deputy Head of Mission
Canada’s Embassy to the United States

Denis is the Deputy Head of Mission in Canada’s Embassy to the United States of America. A native of Montréal, he has served with the Canadian government for 20 years, variously in the departments of Justice, Indian and Northern Affairs, Public Safety, and Global Affairs; and at the Privy Council Office, the department that serves the Prime Minister and the Cabinet. Prior to joining the Embassy in 2013, Denis was Consul General of Canada in Seattle. He has a BA from Harvard University, and LLB and MBA degrees from McGill University. He is married to Genevieve Chanteloup, and they have two daughters.

Elizabeth Moore Aubin
Chargé d’Affaires a.i.
United States Embassy to Canada

Chargé d’Affaires a.i. Elizabeth Moore Aubin, United States Embassy

Elizabeth Moore Aubin is serving as the Chargé d’Affaires a.i. in Ottawa, Canada. She began her tenure as the Deputy Chief of Mission in May 2016 and became Chargé d’Affaires on January 18th, 2017 after the departure of Ambassador Bruce Heyman. Previously, she was the Executive Director for the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs where she provided policy direction, guidance and planning for the management of 53 diplomatic posts in the Western Hemisphere. From 2011-2014, she served as the Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Algiers, winning the Department’s Commercial Advocacy Award in 2013. She speaks French and Italian and has a B.A. in Political Science from Barnard College, 1987. She is married to Daniel J. Aubin.
Deborah Meyers
Director, Canadian Affairs and Senior Advisor
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Deborah Meyers is Director for Canadian Affairs and Senior Advisor for North America. In this position, she coordinates DHS engagement with Canada in support of the Department’s goals and Department-wide efforts in support of the North American Leaders’ Summit. Her portfolio covers the full range of DHS missions, including counterterrorism, law enforcement, border management, immigration, information sharing, critical infrastructure protection, cybersecurity, and emergency preparedness. Ms. Meyers played a leading role in the development and implementation of the 2011 Declaration by President Obama and Prime Minister Harper Beyond the Border: A Shared Vision for Perimeter Security and Economic Competitiveness. Previously, Ms. Meyers served as Senior Policy Analyst at the Migration Policy Institute and as a Policy Analyst at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and the U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform. Ms. Meyers earned her MA from The George Washington University and her BA from Brandeis University, and she also completed Georgetown University’s Nonprofit Management Executive Certificate Program.

Daniel Ujczo
International Trade Attorney
Dickinson Wright PLLC

Dan is an international trade and customs lawyer who specializes in Canada-United States and North American matters. Dan also coordinates Dickinson Wright’s innovative Canada-U.S. Platform. Dan is one of the few individuals that has served in the US and Canadian governments, as well as private practice and academia. Prior to joining Dickinson Wright, Dan served as an officer in Canada’s foreign ministry and he was the Managing Director of the Canada-United States Law Institute. Dan also was a visiting professor of law at Case Western Reserve University School of Law and was a legal adviser to the US Department of Homeland Security and the US Coast Guard. Dan is the President of the Ohio-Canada Business Association and the Vice Chair and National Board Member of AM-CHAM Canada. Dan founded the U.S.-Canada S.A.G.E. initiative that is a collaboration of more than 200 U.S. and Canadian business associations.
Andrea van Vugt
Vice President Policy
Business Council of Canada

With nearly 20 years of provincial and federal public policy experience, Andrea leads the Council’s work on North America, advising on bilateral and trilateral issues with the United States and Mexico. As Chief of Staff to the Minister of International Trade, and as Foreign Affairs and Trade Advisor to the Prime Minister from 2009 to 2014, Andrea played an instrumental role in the conclusion of the Canada-Europe and Trans-Pacific Partnership trade negotiations. She advised the Prime Minister and members of cabinet during more than 20 bilateral visits around the world, and at summits which included the G8, G20, North American Leaders’ Summit, COP and NATO. Prior to joining the Prime Minister’s Office, Andrea held a number of roles in the private and non-profit sectors, including as Director of Government Relations for TELUS and as Associate Director for Corporate Relations for the Richard Ivey School of Business. She received her Bachelor’s degree in Political Science from King’s University College.