

For Immediate Release

**CHAMBER EXECUTIVES HOST CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES AND HIGHLIGHTS VITAL CANADA-U.S. TRADE RELATIONSHIP**



From front to back: Chair Elect, Alisha Benson, CEO, Greater Spokane Inc. Spokane, WA, Chair Jim Rooney, President & CEO, Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, Boston, MA, Director, Rory Ring, President& CEO, Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce, Chatham, ON, Ambassador to the United States, Kristen Hillman, Director, Keitha Robson, CAO, Timmins Chamber of Commerce, ON, President & CEO, Sheree Anne Kelly, President & CEO, Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives, Alexandria, VA

Mr. Ring Director, Rory Ring, President& CEO, Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce takes a moment to brief Ambassador Hillman on ACCE members in attendance and the communities they represent.



Chair Jim Rooney, President & CEO, Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, Director, Rory Ring, President& CEO, Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce and Ambassador to the United States, Kristen Hillman debrief and reflect on the success of the hour and half meeting.

Rory Ring, President & CEO, Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce welcomed the Canadian Ambassador Kristen Hillman to the United States for a timely discussion with his colleagues from across the U.S.A. on the critical trade relationship between Canada and the United States. As part of the Board of Directors meeting of The Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE) this timely meeting, 10 days out from the Presidential Election, emphasized the profound economic ties that bind our two nations.

Canada is represented on the ACCE Board of Directors by Mr. Ring and Ms. Keitha Robson, Chief Administrative Officer, Timmins Chamber of Commerce. ACCE serves more than 9,000 leaders from 1,300 chambers of commerce, including 93 of the top 100 metro areas in the U.S. and hundreds of other businesses and organizations, like convention and visitors' bureaus and economic development organizations. The combined membership of ACCE chambers in the U.S. exceeds 1.2 million businesses and connects our main streets across the continent.

During the meeting, the Ambassador emphasized key areas where our interests intersect and prove a shared prosperity as partner for the future. Critical areas of discussion included:

**Economic Powerhouse:** The Canada-U.S. trade relationship stands as the world's most comprehensive, with nearly \$3.6 billion worth of goods and services crossing the border daily in 2023. This robust exchange supports millions of jobs in both countries, underscoring the interdependence of our economies.

**Integrated Supply Chains:** the Ambassador highlighted the deep integration of Canadian and American supply chains, particularly in sectors like automotive manufacturing. Products often cross the border multiple times during production, showcasing the seamless nature of our economic partnership.

**Strategic Importance:** the discussion touched on the strategic significance of the bilateral relationship, which extends beyond trade to encompass shared values, security interests, and collaboration on global challenges.

**CUSMA and Future Cooperation:** the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA) was noted as a cornerstone of the trade relationship, providing a framework for continued economic growth and cooperation. The Ambassador stressed the importance of the upcoming 2026 CUSMA review as an opportunity to further strengthen ties.

**Challenges and Opportunities:** the meeting also addressed the need for both nations to adapt to changing global dynamics, including the rise of protectionist sentiments and ongoing trade tensions with China.

Rory Ring, CEO & President of the Chatham-Kent Chamber and ACCE Director, commented on the meeting:

*"Engaging with our American partners is essential for fostering a prosperous economic future. The insights shared today reinforce our commitment to strengthening this vital relationship. As we look ahead to the 2026 CUSMA review, it's crucial that we advocate for policies that benefit both nations while addressing emerging global challenges."*

The ACCE Board of Directors expressed appreciation for the Ambassador's insights and reaffirmed the commitment of the business community to fostering strong Canada-U.S. relations. This productive dialogue underscores the enduring importance of the Canada-U.S. partnership and sets the stage for continued collaboration between our nations' business communities. On behalf of the community of Chatham-Kent Mr. Ring extended an invitation to Ambassador Hillman to visit Chatham-Kent and learn more about the areas leadership in the agricultural sector and growing economic diversity of our trade with the United States. Mr. Ring proudly provided all the delegates with lapel pins representing Canada, Ontario and Chatham-Kent on behalf of our elected officials.

For media inquiries, contact:

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**\*About Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce:\***

The Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce serves as the recognized voice of visionary leadership for over 350 members and businesses in the Chatham-Kent community. Their mission is to champion business excellence by encouraging business relations, integrating business with the community, and fostering entrepreneurship. They aim to enhance economic prosperity and quality of life for local businesses. You can find them at 54 Fourth St, Chatham, ON N7M 2G21. For inquiries, you can reach them at (519) 352-7540 or via email at [info@chatham-kentchamber.ca](mailto:info@chatham-kentchamber.ca).