



Department of Justice

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NORTHERN BORDER SUMMIT

Law Enforcement Leaders from United States and Canada Conclude Successful Meeting in Lake Placid with Keynote Address by U.S. Attorney General Holder

ALBANY, NEW YORK — United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian announced the successful conclusion of the 2011 Northern Border Summit hosted by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of New York in Lake Placid this week. The Summit gathered many of the leading prosecutors and investigators from across the United States, including twelve United States Attorneys representing border districts from Alaska to Maine, and culminated with an address by Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr. In that address, the Attorney General announced that the United States has been working with its counterparts in Canada to develop a pilot project that will team law enforcement agents from both countries to work together on both sides of the border to investigate criminal conduct and apprehend offenders.

The Attorney General described the initiative, known as the "Next Generation" or "NextGen" of integrated cross-border law enforcement operations, as "an exciting step forward – and precisely the type of bold, collaborative approach that's necessary to address 21st century threats," while still protecting civil liberties and privacy rights consistent with the traditions of both countries. His remarks capped a conference that brought together approximately two hundred local, state, provincial and national leaders from the United States and Canada for two days of substantive presentations and panel discussions addressing legal issues facing law enforcement across the Northern Border.

United States Attorney Hartunian, who organized and hosted the event in coordination with his colleagues from the other Northeast Border U.S. Attorney's Offices, pronounced it a "tremendous success" in "shedding light on the essential issues impacting our ability to protect our border and to deter, interdict and prosecute crime that transcends it." "To the criminals," he noted, "there is no border. I am hopeful that this truly groundbreaking event will be a seminal moment in our efforts to collaborate across political and legal boundaries to form a united front in this essential battle. Terrorists, drug traffickers, human smugglers, and all manner of criminals would seek to utilize the border to further their schemes – we cannot let that happen. This Summit represents the best of what we can do when we work together to address that threat to our country and our way of life."

United States Attorney Hartunian was pleased to invite participation from District Attorneys throughout the North Country, and pledged that "we will stand shoulder-to-shoulder with them across the border. With them, and our federal, state, tribal and local law enforcement agencies, working together, there is no threat that we cannot face. Ideas such as NextGen represent the most creative thinking in how to fill any remaining gaps and augment our mutual defenses against illegal conduct that impacts this District, this country, and our mutual national security."

In addition to Attorney General Holder, other presenters included prominent leaders from the U.S. Department of Justice, the Department of Justice and Public Prosecution Service of Canada, and many leaders from law enforcement agencies from both countries. United States Attorney Hartunian stated that “never before, to my knowledge, have such a collection of prosecution and law enforcement leaders come together under one roof to discuss what we’re doing, and what we can do better, at the Border. The great success of the Summit clearly reflects the importance of the challenge we all face, and our commitment to work together, as we must, to achieve our mutual goals. I was, and am, humbled by the response of my colleagues throughout the law enforcement community to this effort, and look forward to partnering with all of them to build on this success as we move forward together.”