



## INFORMATION BULLETIN

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**DATE: October 2, 2009**

**SUBJECT: New U.S. Ambassador to Canada**

**SOURCE: Toronto Star**

President Barack Obama finally has his man in Canada, now that David Jacobson has formally taken up his duties as the new U.S. ambassador.

Jacobson, who presented his credentials this morning to the Governor-General, told reporters that his first goal is to get out and travel across Canada, to get to know its people and "the beauty and the grandeur" of the country.

"I ought to see the country," said Jacobson, a Chicago lawyer and long-time friend of Obama's.

"My plan is over the next six weeks to try to visit every one of the provinces in Canada. I think it's very important that before I start making decisions and trying to do things that I have a good and firm understanding of the country and of its people."

Though he expressed hopes for a solution to the Buy American issue — Canada has been working to get exempted from that provision of U.S. stimulus legislation — Jacobson did not disclose whether any deals were imminent.

"Hopefully we can move this forward," Jacobson said, confirming that the way out of the impasse may be an arrangement in which trade arrangements can be expanded to include U.S. states and Canadian provinces, so-called "reciprocity" at the state-provincial level.

Jacobson says he has four, over-arching priorities as he takes up his job. They include:

— Trade: "We have the largest trading relationship of any two countries in the history of the world," Jacobson said, noting that the sheer size presents unique opportunities and problems.

—Energy and the environment: "Canada is a pillar in the energy security of the United States," Jacobson said.

— Border issues: "What I believe we need to do is strike the appropriate balance between security on the one hand and convenience on the other, on both sides of the border," he said.

— Canada-U.S. foreign policy: The two countries stand "shoulder to shoulder" on many foreign-policy concerns, Jacobson said, and he wants to ensure that this relationship is strengthened.

Jacobson, who handled staffing for the Obama White House before his arrival here, said that Canada was his first choice for a diplomatic post and he said he already knows how to ski and skate.

He's a hockey fan, too, saying he's been rooting for the Chicago Blackhawks for decades.