

The logo for canoe.ca, featuring the text "canoe.ca" in white on a black rectangular background.

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Obama sweeps Canada

By MATT KIELTYKA, 24 HOURS

Forgive Ajay Puri for caring more about Barack Obama than politics at home.

It's just that the new president's charisma and message has transcended the border in ways the Vancouver resident never thought was possible.

"Obama has really appealed to me," said Puri, the co-founder of Canadians for Obama, which includes more than 650 Vancouverites among their ranks. "He has mobilized a lot of people who have not been political before. He's getting people interested in politics even if we're in Canada."

Puri admits the Canadian federal election last month barely registered on his radar - "I didn't see the same type of leadership" - but was so enthralled with the Obama movement that he volunteered for his campaign in Washington State.

And yesterday, Puri and a few hundred fellow Obama fans celebrated in style at the Yaletown Brewery (1111 Mainland St.), as their man became the leader of our neighbour to the south.

But don't worry, Puri hasn't completely forgotten his home and native land.

"I've never felt so much energy in Vancouver," he said.