

## **THE THIRD** **CANADA-MEXICO JOINT ACTION PLAN**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Canada-Mexico bilateral relationship is deep, extensive and mutually productive. Our countries share a strategic and dynamic relationship, which has led to increased cooperation in the political, economic, commercial, security, social, cultural, sport, educational and environmental spheres.

Through this 2014-2016 Joint Action Plan and Annex, Mexico and Canada affirm our four bilateral priorities: (1) fostering competitive and sustainable economies, (2) protecting our citizens, (3) enhancing people-to-people contacts and (4) projecting our partnership globally and regionally, together with concrete initiatives to advance them. These priorities and initiatives build upon the 2007-2008 and 2010-2012 Joint Action Plans.

Spurred in particular by the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), in for since 1994, our citizens continue to experience gains from vastly expanded trade and investment and from increasingly integrated economies in such areas as agriculture, automobiles, information technology and aerospace. Canada-Mexico economic relations are reaching new heights, evolving from beyond a mainly export-oriented stance to a strategic approach in shaping an integrated 21<sup>st</sup> century North American production platform. Continued engagement through high-level fora such as the North American Leaders Summit (NALS), the NAFTA Free Trade Commission and the Canada-Mexico Partnership (CMP) reinforces this approach. With our participation in Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations and Canada's observer status in the Pacific Alliance, underpinned by our shared commitment to multilateral trade liberalization through the World Trade Organization (WTO), Canada and Mexico are in a better position than ever to foster increasingly competitive and sustainable economies.

Canada and Mexico benefit from robust joint cooperation including a mutual engagement for fostering high level political dialogue on a variety of important issues, including on consular cooperation, on the management of health emergencies and natural disasters, and on labour mobility, where the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program, established in 1974 with Mexico, is a model of intergovernmental cooperation in achieving orderly, legal and secure labour mobility. More broadly, Canada and Mexico are partners in the Americas, standing side-by-side in our commitment to increase economic opportunity, strengthen security, and advance freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. We jointly foster lasting relationships in the hemisphere, exemplified by our cooperation throughout Central America and the Caribbean. We are also firm supporters of the multilateral system – for example, through the Organization of American States (OAS), the G20 and the United Nations (UN) – as the means to address common challenges, such as international peace and security, human development and climate change.

These shared priorities are more relevant than ever in 2014 as we navigate a dynamic global economy, as we strive to enhance our citizens' well-being in a competitive world; as we live the benefits of cooperative action to lessen impacts of health emergencies and natural disasters; as we jointly confront the menace of

transnational organized crime; and as we seek common ground to resolve regional and global issues of importance and complexity.

## **PRIORITIES**

### **1) Fostering Competitive and Sustainable Economies**

Canada and Mexico's economic partnership has evolved from an export-focussed relationship in the 1990s to a sophisticated affiliation on multiple levels, including strong leadership and participation in an integrated North American production platform in the 21st century. We have a joint interest in the vitality of this relationship, and in strengthening North American competitiveness. In their Joint Statement of April 2, 2012, North American Leaders set an ambitious agenda for cooperative approaches to continued North American competitiveness, including in areas such as secure supply chains, efficient borders and the alignment of regulatory approaches.

Canada and Mexico are working closely to stimulate cooperation among companies and institutions in order to increase bilateral trade and investment. Our countries are also seeking to expand and strengthen trade and investment ties globally, including deepening our supply chains in the Americas and Asia. Canada and Mexico have joined negotiations for the Trans-Pacific Partnership to create new opportunities for our exporters seeking to expand into new markets or to enhance their presence in existing markets. Canada became an observer to the Pacific Alliance, an initiative launched by Mexico, along with Chile, Colombia and Peru, to create an area of deep integration to advance toward the free movement of goods, services, capital and people. In addition, Canada and Mexico's longstanding commitment to multilateral trade liberalization through the WTO provides an avenue for the advancement of global trade.

On a bilateral basis, we continue to both renew and expand our economic relationship to build greater competitiveness. We are both strong energy and resource rich nations that can work together to best benefit from these assets. Aligning regulatory approaches to reduce unnecessary differences can facilitate additional business connections between our two countries. As an example, Canada and Mexico are working to implement and expand our Bilateral Air Transport Agreement to enhance mobility and strengthen our logistical linkages.

A concerted focus on innovation and applied science and technology is critical to our societies' goal of achieving and sustaining economic competitiveness. Canada and Mexico share an interest in a wide range of economic activities that could benefit from our closer collaboration, and lead to new business opportunities. Opportunities exist to solidify ties between Canada and Mexico by further sharing our respective science, technology and innovation strengths and challenges, and determining areas for enhanced collaboration.

Canada and Mexico also acknowledge the dynamic intersection of the economy and the environment. On this front, our two countries have built a platform of pragmatic cooperation through a number of bilateral, trilateral and multilateral

mechanisms, including the Canada–Mexico Partnership (CMP), the North American Leaders Summit (NALS), the NAFTA Free Trade Commission (FTC), the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC), and technology cooperation partnerships such as the Global Methane Initiative, the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC), the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA), and most recently, the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC).

Canada and Mexico will also explore opportunities to fully realize the economic and social benefits of private sector activities through deepened cooperation in the area of corporate social responsibility and more broadly.

## **2) Protecting our citizens**

The consumption of illicit drugs and the significant flow of precursor chemicals, arms, goods and resources into and through North America have a corrosive influence on the rule of law, fuel corruption, compromise the legitimate flow of people and commerce, and undermine the security of citizens in the entire region. Canada and Mexico approach these challenges from a multidisciplinary perspective and with a renewed determination to take effective actions against the threats posed by both domestic and transnational organized crime.

Irregular migration also concerns Canada and Mexico, as efforts by human traffickers and smugglers to contravene national borders challenge the sovereignty of our nations. In successive Joint Action Plans, Canada and Mexico have partnered in a multi-pronged effort to ensure the safe and secure international movement of people, while curtailing the influence and destructive reach of transnational organized crime groups, as well as other threats, which have direct negative impacts on national, continental and hemispheric security.

We affirm the imperative to build upon existing security, defence and justice cooperation between our two countries. Emphasis will be placed on investigational and operational cooperation, information exchange, institutional capacity-building, training and sharing of best practices. We are committed to continue strengthening our partnership through pragmatic bilateral and trilateral mechanisms for cooperation.

Close bilateral partnership on influenza pandemics and other emerging infectious diseases, emergency preparedness and surveillance has served our citizens well. Both countries are committed to a trilateral approach to North American health security under the North American Plan for Animal and Pandemic Influenza (NAPAPI), as well as continuing to work closely with other international partners through the Global Health Security Initiative (GHSI).

## **3) Enhancing People-to-People Contacts**

Over 1.8 million Canadians and 200,000 Mexicans come as visitors to each other's country each year, and the population of permanent residents is also significant and increasing. Additionally, close to 20,000 workers come to Canada through the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program, the Temporary Foreign Worker Program and the Labour Mobility Mechanism.

The Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program between Mexico and Canada is a model of bi-lateral cooperation that allows the orderly and safe participation of Mexican agricultural workers, while also ensuring respect for labour, social and human rights. This mechanism provides these workers (18 to 45 years of age) with a job alternative that is safe and legal. It allows them to perform temporary work on Canadian farms in a variety of areas, including the cultivation and harvesting of vegetables, fruit, tobacco, sod, and trees, as well as livestock, apiary and other horticultural activities.

Canada and Mexico will continue their cooperation to mutually benefit from labour market and workforce complementarities. We will explore opportunities for greater collaboration on a broader set of labour mobility issues, including for example, highly-skilled workers. There may be opportunities to advance this initiative under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and in the areas of international students and youth, foreign credential recognition, and the exploration of greater collaboration between Canada-Mexico Partnership working groups and bilateral dialogue mechanisms.

Pursuant to the 2007-2008 Joint Action Plan, the governments of Canada and Mexico established the Consular Rapid Response Mechanism (CRRM) in both countries. The goal of the mechanism is to strengthen communication and coordination between diplomatic and consular officials and authorities at the federal level, with the aim of ensuring the provision of timely consular services. The CRRM in Mexico was implemented in 2007, while an equivalent virtual mechanism in Canada was put in place in 2011.

With the launch of the Canada-Mexico Memorandum of Understanding on Youth Mobility in May 2010, our academic, cultural and other exchanges have also grown. Mexico is Canada's 8th largest originator of international students, with over 4,500 Mexican students (for six months or more) in 2011. Work continues to increase the two-way flow of youth, students and academics in the context of youth mobility, student exchanges, joint research and joint degree programs.

Work between our two countries in enhancing people-to-people contacts will continue, as we strengthen dialogue mechanisms on migration issues and make efforts to facilitate the orderly, legal and secure movement of people, including business professionals, students, artists and temporary workers. Additionally, we aim to enhance cooperation to address the challenges posed by irregular migration, unscrupulous immigration consultants, and human smuggling and trafficking in persons.

Our two governments recognize the importance of helping to foster such contacts between our citizens, as our citizens are the foundation for a rich and sustainable bilateral relationship.

#### **4) Projecting our Partnership Globally and Regionally**

As countries sharing the same fundamental values, Canada and Mexico have a common interest in protecting and promoting those values in the international arena and to seek a safer, more democratic and more equitable world. In the

United Nations, G20, OAS, NAFTA, APEC, North American Leaders Summits, INTERPOL, Regional Conference on Migration, OECD and other fora, Canada and Mexico work constructively to address prosperity, democracy, human rights, good governance, security and defence priorities in the region and more broadly. We will deepen this strategic collaboration, including through the re-launch of broad, bilateral policy planning talks, and regular hemispheric and multilateral policy consultations. Through sustained dialogue and consultation, we will be better able to forge convergent positions, formulate shared initiatives and engender mutual support on issues arising at regional and global governance fora.

This Joint Action Plan is written with the confidence that it will catalyze further mutual benefits amongst us as close friends and strategic partners; multiply our alliances, both at the national and sub-national, public and private levels; and strengthen our existing bilateral coordination mechanisms. Together, Canada and Mexico embrace the future from the proven worth of a diplomatic relationship stretching back almost 70 years.

**This Joint Action plan will take effect on the date of its signature by both Canada and Mexico and will remain valid December 31, 2016.**

**Signed in duplicate at Mexico City on February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014, in the English, French and Spanish languages, each version being equally valid.**

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For Canada

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For the United States of  
Mexico

## ANNEX

### CANADA-MEXICO JOINT ACTION PLAN 2013-2015 INITIATIVES TO ADVANCE PRIORITIES

#### 1) **Fostering Competitive and Sustainable Economies**

##### a) *Competitiveness and Economic Growth*

- Intensify trade and investment. We will support and encourage our private sectors to undertake the following:
  - Collaborate in global value chains of key sectors such as advanced manufacturing, aerospace, automobile, information and communications technology, creative industries, mining and life sciences;
  - Develop further initiatives and strategic alliances to improve competitiveness;
  - Conduct business missions aimed at promoting trade and investment;
  - Promote initiatives that support the development of small and medium enterprise (SME), particularly given their role as creators of employment.
- Work together on regional initiatives, including the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations and through Canada's observer status in the Pacific Alliance, as well as through the World Trade Organization and other multilateral fora, such as the G-20.
- Work together bilaterally on the following initiatives:
  - Implement and expand our Bilateral Air Transport Agreement;
  - Seek to eliminate unnecessary regulatory differences through alignment of approaches;
  - Enhance and strengthen our cooperation in the areas of energy and resources development.

##### b) *Energy*

- Continue to enhance cooperation of technical strategic alliances in the energy field through sharing information, experiences and lessons learned, especially in the areas of new technologies, and legal and regulatory frameworks.
- Continue to strengthen commercial ties between the two countries by working on joint projects between our respective regulators and industries.
- Share Canada's experience in the development of heavy oil and shale gas, including with regard to innovative technologies, regulatory framework, rules and policies.

c) *Environment and Sustainability*

- Continue to strengthen our results-oriented cooperation, including capacity building and technical exchanges, and seek new synergies in clean technologies, cleaner use of conventional and unconventional fossil fuels, renewable energy, and energy efficiency, including through joint project activities in key areas such as smart grids.
- Promote Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and productive relationships between industry, government and civil society in order to fully realize the economic and social benefits of private sector activities.
- Share experience in low greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions initiatives related to freight transport as “Fleet smart” and “Transporte Limpio.”
- Continue regular strategic consultations on climate change negotiations and on implementation of commitments.

d) *Science and Technology*

- Encourage closer collaboration in scientific research and innovative technological development between Mexican and Canadian institutions, by promoting the mobility of students and experts, as well as the development of joint research and innovation, in disciplines and common areas of priority.
- Facilitate policy dialogue and share best practices to support research and innovation programs, aimed at devising innovative solutions with a strong focus on the market and society.
- Expand and strengthen knowledge sharing initiatives that already exist with the Networks of Centers of Excellence of Canada and their Mexican counterparts (institutions of higher education as well as research and technology centers).

**2) Protecting our citizens**

a) *Security and Defence*

- Capitalize on and strengthen the Canada-Mexico Consultations on New and Traditional Security Issues as the instrument to maximize coherence and complementarity between the activities of bilateral mechanisms and working groups dealing with security-related themes.
- Encourage increased bilateral investigational and operational assistance between Canadian and Mexican authorities to better detect, deter, disrupt and dismantle transnational organized crime activity affecting the safety and security of our citizens.
- Continue ongoing efforts to share information, exchange best practices, and explore options to expand these exchanges, including developing additional mechanisms for information where relevant.
- Expand and deepen bilateral cooperation on security issues, with a view to focusing collaboration on strengthening the security of both countries.

- Build upon cooperative efforts in security system reform (crime prevention, police, customs and border management professionalization and cooperation, judicial and correctional system reform) through bilateral institutional capacity-building, and in the wider North American context, to contain the influence of transnational organized crime and to strengthen the rule of law.
- Share best practices on border management, including customs, and infrastructure.
- Continue to leverage the World Customs Organization and the Regional Conference of Customs Directors General of the Americas and Caribbean Region to collaborate on a wide range of regional issues.
- Maintain solidarity in curbing irregular migration within the North American perimeter and the greater Americas region through participation in regional migration mechanisms.
- Continue to explore opportunities to support efforts to address transnational organized crime in the region, including through our active participation within the Group of Friends of Central America process and the Central American Integration System (SICA)-North America Security Dialogue.
- Continue regular Canada-Mexico Political-Military Talks, Military-Military talks, and trilateral meetings of North American Defence Ministers to further deepen understanding of respective challenges, share best practices and enhance collaboration on issues of mutual concern, such as supporting efforts to address transnational organized crime and respond to disasters.
- Continue our successful collaboration to enhance effective aviation security cooperation, especially with regard to regional capacity building, and implement the measures outlined in the Americas Joint Declaration on Civil Aviation Security, to reflect the activities that have been ongoing since 2010 and that are foreseen at least as far as 2014.
- Reaffirm our commitment to the goals of nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation, peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and nuclear security by complying with our international commitments, particularly those arising from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and from the Nuclear Security Summits in Washington (2010) and Seoul (2012) respectively, and continue our cooperation to strengthen the regime established by the NPT.
- Strengthen cooperation to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass\_destruction (WMD) and the illicit trafficking of related materials to states and non-state actors of proliferation concern, and to jointly promote such efforts throughout the region, including through the Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction, which Mexico has recently joined, relevant export control regimes and multilateral counter-proliferation initiatives, and by taking strategic advantage of resources available through Canada's Global Partnership Program.



*b) Health Security*

- Reaffirm our commitment to the implementation of the North American Plan for Animal and Pandemic Influenza (NAPAPI), which provides a collaborative and multi-sectoral framework to strengthen our response to future animal and pandemic influenza events in North America.
- Work with international partners, including those in the Global Health Security Initiative (GHSI) and International Atomic Energy Agency to strengthen health preparedness and response globally to biological, chemical, radio-nuclear threats and accidents (CBRN), and pandemic influenza.

**3) Enhancing People-to-People Contacts**

- Continue to foster and deepen the very close relationship between Canadian and Mexican authorities at the highest-levels on consular cases as well as broader consular themes, as established by the Consular Rapid Response Mechanism (CRRM), while at the same time furthering our collaboration in multilateral fora, including the Canada/US/Mexico trilateral workshop on the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, and at the Canadian-proposed International Event on Contemporary Consular Practice and Issues, to which Mexico has agreed to become a participant, as well as a Steering Committee member.
- Continue to pursue government to government efforts to promote and facilitate the orderly, legal and secure movement of our citizens:
  - Continue to work together to facilitate legitimate travel and trade, including the movement of temporary workers, students and visitors, while maintaining the integrity of our respective immigration systems;
  - Continue to address irregular migration through joint training, exchange of best practices and program information;
  - Combat unscrupulous immigration consultants and other unlawful practices that lead to the abuse of immigration and refugee programs, and endanger vulnerable migrants and temporary workers;
  - Support labour migration through the Labour Mobility Mechanism (LMM) under the auspices of the Labour Mobility Working Group of the Canada-Mexico Partnership;
  - Continue to implement a Youth Mobility Arrangement;
  - Continue to promote opportunities for Mexican students to study in Canada through the Emerging Leaders in the Americas Program awards;
  - Maintain the open dialogue and good working rapport we have built together on migration issues over the past few years, for example, through such venues as the High Level Steering Group on Migration and its working-level Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC)-Secretaría de Gobernación (SEGOB) Working Group on Migration Issues.

**4) Projecting our Partnership Globally and Regionally**

- Establish bilateral policy planning meetings, complementing existing mechanisms for bilateral cooperation on regional and multilateral issues.
- Building on our shared experience and commitment, explore how our countries can deepen collaboration at the international level in the areas of

humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, maritime security and peacekeeping.

- Explore ways to enhance our cooperation to strengthen security in Central America and the Caribbean.

**CONSULTED GOVERNMENT OF CANADA DEPARTMENTS**

Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT)  
 Environment Canada (EC)  
 Natural Resources Canada (NRCan)  
 Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA)  
 Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)  
 Department of National Defence (DND)  
 Public Safety Canada (PS)  
 Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC)  
 Department of Justice (JUS)  
 Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada (FINTRAC)  
 Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC)  
 Health Canada  
 Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)  
 Transport Canada  
 Department of Finance  
 Industry Canada  
 Correctional Service Canada (CSC)

**CONSULTED GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO DEPARTMENTS**

Secretaría de Gobernación (SEGOB)  
 Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores (SRE)  
 Comisión Nacional de Seguridad (SSP)  
 Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT)  
 Secretaría de Energía (SENER)  
 Secretaría de Economía (SE)  
 Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería, Desarrollo Rural, Pesca y Alimentación (SAGARPA)  
 Secretaría de Comunicaciones y Transportes (SCT)  
 Secretaría de Salud (SSA)  
 Secretaría de Trabajo y Previsión Social (STPS)  
 Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología (CONACYT)