

EBTC NEWS

DATE: January 6, 2015

SUBJECT: *The renewed push for deeper North American Integration*

SOURCE: Dana Gabriel, Global Research, 01/05/15

The globalist plan to incrementally merge the U.S., Canada and Mexico into a North American Union has been ongoing for years. While at times, the agenda appears to have seemingly stalled, current efforts to expand the trilateral partnership show that it is alive and once again gaining steam. With NAFTA as the foundation, the renewed push for deeper North American integration continues on many different fronts.

The Canadian Council of Chief Executives (CCCE), recently issued the report, [Made in North America: a new agenda to sharpen our competitive edge](#). The CCCE is one of Canada's most influential corporate lobby groups, with many of their proposals shaping the country's domestic and foreign policy priorities. Throughout the years, they have pushed for deeper continental integration. With the 2015 North American Leaders Summit in mind, the CCCE offered a series of recommendations aimed at further expanding the trilateral relationship in areas such as border management, infrastructure, manufacturing, energy and regulatory cooperation. The report stated, "We need trilateral agreement on future directions, a clear commitment from the three leaders, and a central agency in each government with the responsibility to coordinate effective and efficient implementation. By pursuing a strategic plan of intelligent change and reform, our three nations can lead the world economy for years to come." The CCCE also acknowledged how their policy paper is intended to complement the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) report, [North America: Time for a New Focus](#), which was released several months ago.

The fourth annual [North American Competitiveness and Innovation Conference](#) (NACIC) was held at the end of October and brought together government officials, policy experts and business leaders from all three countries. Among the attendees were U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker, Canada's Minister of International Trade Edward Fast and Mexico's Secretary of Economy Ildefonso Guajardo Villarreal. In a [joint statement](#), they pledged to enhance trade and to deepen their economic relationship through the development and advancement of a North

American competitiveness work plan. Minister Fast pointed to [more trilateral cooperation](#) as key to increasing competitiveness. In a [speech](#) given before attending the NACIC, Secretary Pritzker also discussed the opportunity to upgrade NAFTA through the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which she described as the next chapter in North American economic integration.

On December 15, at the [North American Energy Ministers Meeting](#), U.S. Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz, Canada's Minister of Natural Resources Greg Rickford and Mexico's Secretary of Energy Pedro Joaquin Coldwell took steps to promote continental energy security and collaboration. This includes strengthening government-to-government relationships and supporting business-to-business engagement in the energy sector. The ministers also committed to working together to establish best practices for oil and gas development and to modernize North America's energy infrastructure. In addition, they signed a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) to improve cooperation on sharing energy public data, statistics and mapping information. As oil prices continue to slide, [Colin Robertson](#), Vice President of the Canadian Defence and Foreign Affairs Institute, believes what North America really needs is a common energy strategy. In advance of the trilateral energy ministers meeting, he argued how, "Mexico's ambitious reforms, the energy industry's commitment to innovation, and shifting geopolitics create new opportunities. A North American energy strategy would be a great leap forward in continental economic integration."

Earlier this month, New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, a possible candidate for the 2016 Republican presidential nomination visited Canada, where he discussed energy and trade issues. During a [speech](#) at the Calgary Petroleum Club, he called for approval the Keystone XL pipeline, which would link Canada's oil sands to U.S. Gulf Coast refineries. Christie stressed that delays have hurt Canada-U.S. relations. He also explained that, "Keystone is perhaps the most visible pending energy project on our continent, but it is far from the only one. As a general matter, we need to reduce regulatory uncertainty and increase the speed and transparency of the American project approval process." This ties into [H.R.3301 – the North American Energy Infrastructure Act](#), which is designed to streamline the cross-border permit process and prevent long delays to projects like the Keystone XL. In the end, if President Barack Obama does reject the Keystone pipeline, some have warned that Canada could challenge the decision as a [breach of NAFTA's principles](#).

As part of his speech, Governor Christie further highlighted the North American partnership and noted that, "the Council on Foreign Relations released a new report of a task force headed by General David Petraeus and my friend Bob Zoellick, former President of the World Bank. The report talks about how focusing on and strengthening the relationship between the U.S. and Canada — and Mexico — can increase our competitiveness and our mutual influence in the world. I couldn't agree more." He went on to say, "In the last few years, the leadership of the United States government has not always placed sufficient priority on North America. This is a mistake and a missed opportunity." Christie's message was similar to the one he [delivered in Mexico](#) back in

September, where he promoted North American energy cooperation and emphasized how U.S. foreign policy should focus on its neighbours first.

A [New York Times article](#) also shed more light on the strategy behind the New Jersey governor's trips to Mexico and Canada. They reported that, "Mr. Christie, who has limited experience in international affairs, is fashioning a foreign policy that is heavily grounded in North America, which he views as an overlooked domain in an era of international threats to the United States. It is an approach shaped heavily by informal advisers, including Robert B. Zoellick, the former United States trade representative under President George W. Bush, who said in a recent interview that he has encouraged Mr. Christie to think about the continental base." Zoellick is the co-chair of the [CFR Task Force report](#) and has urged 2016 presidential candidates to make North America a part of their foreign policy platform. In Christie, the CFR has found at least one potential candidate who is ready to champion for deeper North American integration.

In many ways, the conditions needed to further advance North American integration are more favourable than they've been in years, with recent changes presenting new opportunities. Whether it be an economic or security crisis, political instability or social unrest, the global elite will use any means necessary to move their agenda forward. Ultimately, the North American Union incremental steps of erasing continental borders, abolishing national sovereignty and consolidating power and wealth are part of a much larger plan to establish a one world economic system.

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