

**Remarks to the Eastern Border Transportation Coalition
Tuesday, April 19, 2016
1001 Woodward Avenue, Detroit (SEMCOG office)
9:00 am**

Bienvenue Mesdames et Messieurs. Je suis très heureux d'être ici. Et Consul Général Fite, je suis très heureux de vous rencontrer ainsi.

Welcome to Motown and thank you for the invitation to speak to you today.

As I recall, you were scheduled to meet last fall in Detroit, but the Canadian election derailed your plans. That is behind us now; we have a new government in Ottawa and I would like to begin by talking about its significance for my American friends.

Why Canada Matters

Canada matters to the US.

Prime Minister Trudeau has made the Canada-US relationship a number one priority for his Foreign Affairs team.

This was evident during his recent highly successful visits to Washington and New York. Both he and the President agreed to advance the relationship.

Among the key themes the Prime Minister discussed with the President was our trade relationship and our mutual economic prosperity.

Trade

Canada is the United States' most important partner and vice versa.

The United States sells more to Canada than it does to any other country in the world. We are your biggest customer.

In 2015, bilateral trade reached US\$671 billion, or almost \$2 billion worth of goods and services crossing the border every day. Nearly 9 million US jobs depend on trade and investment with Canada.

Of the 50 US states, 35 count Canada as their number one export market, including all member states of Eastern Border Transportation Coalition.

Canada's relationship with each of these states (Maine, Vermont, New York, and Michigan) is also critical: over 680,000 jobs in New York depend on the relationship; Michigan sells more goods to Canada than to the state's next 11 largest foreign markets.

So growing this relationship and improving economic opportunities is critical for Canadian and American families and their communities.

Cross-Border Issues

In an increasingly complex and challenging security environment, Canada and the United States renewed our shared commitment to further deepen the longstanding cooperation along our shared border.

Our two countries commit to building on existing bilateral arrangements, particularly with respect to strengthened cooperation on measures to ensure the efficiency and security of our shared border.

Key issues are:

- **Preclearance** - We have agreed in principle to expand preclearance to Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport, Quebec City's Jean Lesage International Airport, as well as for rail service in Montreal and Vancouver. Both countries will work to convert existing pre-inspection sites in British Columbia to full preclearance. We will also explore the conditions necessary for cargo preclearance and identify opportunities to pilot this approach.
- **Canada-US Redress Working Group** - to facilitate cross-border aviation redress, increase transparency, expedite processing of any complaints, and streamline security list removal issues.

- Exchange **basic biographic entry information** at the land border; this will allow Canada and the US to enhance border security in an effective and responsible way; it will be done in a manner that respects our separate constitutional and legal frameworks, and protects our citizens' right to privacy.
- **Regulatory Cooperation Council** - Canada and the U.S. are taking measures to advance and secure regulatory cooperation between our two countries going forward. Regulatory cooperation promotes economic growth, which benefits both consumers and businesses.

Regulatory Cooperation Council

Canada and the US created the binational Regulatory Cooperation Council in 2011 to reduce regulatory differences and duplicative procedures that impose unnecessary requirements and costs on the business community.

Following their meeting in March, 2016, the President and Prime Minister agreed to further measures under the Regulatory Co-operation Council:

- Forming a joint group of senior officials tasked to generate and implement regulatory cooperation initiatives on an ongoing basis.
- Forming a business, consumer and expert group to ensure an ongoing focus on benefits and on international regulatory cooperation developments.
- Calling upon government agencies to generate ambitious short and medium term initiatives based on input from stakeholders and to put in place comprehensive commitments by early summer.

Canada and the US are continuing their efforts to deepen regulatory cooperation efforts to enhance economic competitiveness while maintaining high standards when it comes to health, safety and the environment.

Close consultation with stakeholders is critical to ensure effective and meaningful goals.

Border Security Cooperation

Canada and the United States work closely together to assess shared threats jointly, leveraging existing partnerships between Canadian and U.S. agencies.

Collaboration has become more imperative in light of the evolving security environment, including the foreign and domestic threats.

We are striving to provide a secure and trusted global supply chain that allows for the safe, timely and economically viable movement of cargo into and between the two countries.

A key means of achieving this objective is through the Integrated Cargo Security Strategy which seeks to push out the border by addressing risks outside or at the perimeter.

Canada and the U.S. have deployed an Entry/Exit initiative at all automated common land border ports of entry. This began in 2012 and is being gradually phased in. It may eventually include the air mode as well. Protecting the privacy of personal information is critical in this process.

A Preclearance Agreement was signed in 2015 for the land, rail, marine and air modes. During their March meeting, the leaders agreed in principle to expand preclearance to Billy Bishop Airport in Toronto, Jean Lesage International Airport in Quebec City, as well as to rail service in Montreal and Vancouver.

Since 2005, the **Shiprider** program has set the standard for integrated law enforcement on the maritime border. Shiprider vessels are jointly crewed by specially trained and cross-designated Canadian and US law enforcement officers.

There are full-time Shiprider operations in:

- Surrey, BC/Bellingham, WA;
- Victoria, BC/Port Angeles, WA;
- Windsor, ON/Detroit, MI;
- Niagara on the Lake, ON/ Buffalo, NY;
- Kingston, ON/Alexandria Bay, NY.

Infrastructure

The 2016 Canadian federal budget committed to an historic plan to invest more than \$120 billion in infrastructure over 10 years, to better meet the needs of Canadians and better position Canada's economy for the future.

As Minister Morneau stated, "Investing in infrastructure is not just about creating good jobs and economic growth. It's also about building communities that Canadians are proud to call home."

Part 1 of the Government's infrastructure plan proposes to provide C\$11.9 billion over five years for public transit systems; water and green infrastructure projects; and, building stronger communities.

Part of this latter initiative will provide financial support for VIA Rail towards technical studies and other pre-procurement activities related to the renewal of VIA Rail's fleet, for safety upgrades at grade crossings, and for improved security at VIA Rail stations.

Secondly, the government will also provide support towards an in-depth assessment of VIA's high-frequency rail service within the Windsor-Quebec City corridor.

Gordie Howe International Bridge

The government is also committed to continue support for infrastructure that drives innovation and growth. Clearly the Gordie Howe International Bridge will improve the livelihoods of Canadians and create jobs.

As you know, Canada is working with its partners in the US and Michigan governments to build another bridge - the Gordie Howe International Bridge – between Detroit, Michigan and Windsor, Ontario. The name was announced in May 2015 and is named for “Mr. Hockey” – Saskatchewan native Gordie Howe, who led the Detroit Red Wings to four Stanley Cup victories.

Update:

- July 2015 announcement for the Request for Qualifications: six teams comprised of Canadian, American and international expertise responded to the competitive process to select a private-sector partner to design, construct, finance, operate and maintain the new crossing.
- January 2016: announcement of three short-listed teams was made.
- The process of finalizing the Request for Proposals is underway and will be issued to the Short-Listed Respondents in the near term.
- The project is on-track for completion in 2020.

The United States is a key partner in this project. Canada is currently working with the United States on design requirements for the Port of Entry.

The U.S. will also participate in the procurement process for the public-private partnership, and staff and equip the inspection facilities once they are constructed.

The bridge will accelerate the flow of goods and services and provide a much-needed alternative at the busiest commercial land border crossing on the Canada-U.S. border.

It will reduce congestion; support the creation of new export-related jobs and investment opportunities along the Quebec City-Windsor corridor, increase the competitiveness of

the North American manufacturing sector, and provide thousands of construction jobs in Ontario and Michigan.

Oh yes, and it will also allow travellers to bypass those 18 traffic lights on the Canadian side leading to the 401 and provide redundancy to the 87 year-old Ambassador Bridge.

Conclusion

Thanks to the dedicated work of individuals like all of you here today, the Canada-US relationship is strong and thriving. No two countries in the world share deeper bonds, nor are committed to building for the future.

As the Prime Minister and President stated in March: “Canada and the United States share the same values, the same origins, and the same space. We face many of the same challenges, and we are all better off when we tackle them together.”

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. Merci.