

A SEAMLESS NORTH AMERICA

Vision:

A seamless North America in which each country thrives in its own right while collaborating and contributing to the global success of the continent as a whole.

Achieving the Vision:

Strength at Home: Our vision for the future of our continent begins at home. Each member of the trilateral relationship must first be a competitive and attractive investment destination in its own right with a talented workforce, a competitive tax environment and an open trading relationship with key markets around the world.

Integration and coordination between partners: While respecting the sovereignty and security of each country, a seamless North America is one in which goods and services move efficiently through sensible systems and robust infrastructure. Most importantly, people can move easily, and in a timely fashion, to where their talents are most needed. All levels (municipal to federal) and departments of Government need to advance policies that increase North American competitiveness.

New and innovative ways to manage continental supply chains: The nature of the North American supply chain is such that the process required to export a single product often includes value added contributions from all three countries. Our individual and collective ability to drive down the cost of this process will benefit each country individually and the continent as a whole. Any friction in this process raises costs, creates delays, and favours our competitors. Our Governments must take bold steps to ensure our systems and infrastructure efficiently facilitate the interaction of an integrated North American supply chain.

Specific Initiatives:

A targeted set of policies that would have an immediate effect on Continental competitiveness is identified below. We hope that as this dialogue continues we will be able to expand upon this list. We believe the following, specific initiatives, should be pursued immediately:

- Update NAFTA's list of professionals eligible for temporary entry.
- Complete the harmonization of trusted trader programs across North America.
- Apply the principle of "inspected once, accepted thrice" to inbound cargo.
- Create a single window for customs procedures in each country and apply across North America.
- Agree on a common set of advance data required for cargo screening.
- Provide enhanced import and accounting benefits to the most trusted traders.
- Significantly expand customs pre-inspections for high volume shippers.
- Dismantle barriers to a seamless transport network.
- Pursue a trilateral regulatory cooperation project.

In our view, the success of this initiative will be reflected in announcements made by Ministers and Leaders that indicate movement from recommendations to action.