



Columbus Statement on U.S.-Canadian Relations

Distributed February 13, 2017

On June 15, 16 and 17 2016 in Columbus, Ohio, stakeholders in the U.S.- Canadian relationship came together on the campus of The Ohio State University to confirm the fundamental principles and essential features of the historic partnership between our two great countries and to explore the parameters of a 21st century relationship.

We are raising our voices together in support of the efforts of the governments of the United States and Canada to strengthen and deepen the bilateral partnership. Improved border and regulatory cooperation, energy and environmental collaboration, and joint efforts in many other areas can facilitate the integration of our markets for goods, services and investment. This was the objective adopted with the ratification of the Canada-United States Free Trade Agreement and the North American Free Trade Agreement a generation ago.

Furthermore, we are raising our voices to declare our conviction that a good U.S.-Canada relationship cannot be taken for granted; it must be fostered and recommitted to by leaders in each era. And this work begins with us. Stakeholder voices have always been essential to building a consensus for action among leaders in both countries.

Principles for Managing the U.S.-Canadian Relationship

We approach U.S.-Canadian relations in the **spirit of friendship** because of the friendship between the people of the United States and Canada. This is *why* we have maintained good relations successfully since 1814, overcoming disagreements and disputes, natural disasters and global threats.

We acknowledge that **interdependence** is an abiding and defining feature of the U.S.-Canadian relationship, such that it is imprudent for us to be indifferent to one another when making policy decisions. Supply chains, data flows, transportation infrastructure linkages, pandemic disease vulnerability, and a shared environment cross borders and bind us together; managing these flows is a joint responsibility in the public interest.

We endorse **the principle of partnership** that has guided the leaders of the United States and Canada since the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909 to work together as sovereign equals despite asymmetries of population, wealth and other disparities.

We call on fellow stakeholders and leaders in both countries to respect the principle that disputes should be resolved wherever possible according to a **rule of law** process, rather than by political or

coercive means. Trade dispute settlement mechanisms, domestic courts, institutional fora, and diplomacy should remain the accepted means for the resolution of any conflict.

We believe that a healthy relationship is characterized by the fundamental constitutional principles of our two governments: the management of U.S.-Canadian relations must preserve life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness in the spirit of peace, order and good governance of cross-border flows.

In the 21st century, we hold that the management of U.S.-Canadian relations should unleash the secure flows of goods, services, investment, ideas and people across our shared border consistent with mutual prosperity and security.

A Call for Action

The periodic convening of stakeholders has contributed to good relations between Canada and the United States. These meetings have generated policy alternatives and agendas for constructive engagement that would be impossible for political leaders and officials in Washington D.C. or Ottawa to generate alone, given the diffuse and decentralized nature of this relationship.

In Columbus, we met to establish a new coalition to develop common strategies, coordinate plans for advocacy on behalf of good U.S.-Canadian relations to governments, demonstrate support for the gateways both physical and virtual that connect the two countries and promote engagement by stakeholders in order to work to improve U.S.-Canadian relations as technologies and opportunities change and challenge both countries.

Several challenges confront governments in the United States and Canada. We urge leaders to work together to address them. These include:

Innovation is essential to economic growth, and to thriving in the manufacturing and energy sectors of both countries, but requires policy support. This is particularly true in the case of innovative energy solutions that support a healthy environment. A key component of an innovative economy is the legal protection of intellectual property for inventors in all sectors. Canada should address IP inadequacies in order to spur innovation.

Expanded labor mobility is required to match skilled people with employers, innovators with investors, and support the growing cross-border trade in services.

Regulatory alignment between the U.S. and Canadian markets are essential to business and current supply chains. The work of the U.S.-Canada Regulatory Cooperation Council has been valuable, and should be sustained, accelerated and expanded in a new effort to address alignment of voluntary standards.

Border security, Trade and Travel Facilitation Cooperation between U.S. and Canadian officials must continue to keep citizens safe and seek to reduce the compliance burden (whether measured in terms of time or monetary costs) and error rates in inspections and enforcement actions. Efforts to improve our border relationship are essential, and the Beyond the Border Initiative made important progress. Border cooperation should be reinvigorated with new and innovative solutions that have a commercially significant impact on our border relationship.

Subnational governments, including states, provinces and cities can and do contribute to problem solving and good governance in the U.S.-Canadian relationship and help to connect citizens to bilateral relations. Federal government leaders and stakeholders need to do more to empower and seek input from these governments to participate fully in discussions on local innovation, cross border infrastructure, regulatory alignment, worker education and training, public health, economic development, disaster preparedness and response, energy and environment policies, and security.

In the 21st century, leaders of the United States and Canada must increasingly conceive the bilateral relationship in a global context, and not in isolation. The place of Mexico in a North American partnership, and commercial linkages to markets in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America should be discussed bilaterally, and wherever possible acted upon in a coordinated manner.

U.S.-Canadian Relations from Columbus Forward

We will seek consensus among ourselves to promote specific actions to improve the relationship so that decision makers can work constructively to find lasting solutions with stakeholder support. In Columbus, we, as stakeholders, committed ourselves to dialogue and cooperation that will continue in the spirit of friendship and equal partnership, respecting the imperatives of interdependence and the rule of law in this relationship. Through dialogue, we hope that our efforts will foster new principles and agendas to sustain the U.S.-Canada relationship through the 21st century and beyond. While we recognize the importance of our political leaders and systems, our shared history reveals that the best policy and practical solutions arise from engagement with the stakeholder community. As the stakeholder community, we reaffirm our commitment to provide data, recommendations, and resources to demonstrate best practices, develop innovative solutions, and, ultimately, encourage the bilateral relationship.

Signed by:

(listed in alphabetical order by organization/entity name)

Rick Tachuk
Chairman
American Chamber of Commerce in Canada
Ottawa, Ontario

Daniel Kolundzic
Director
Binational Research & Innovation Corridor
Hamilton/Niagara, Ontario, Canada
Buffalo/Niagara, New York

Laurie Trautman
Director
Border Policy Research Institute
Western Washington University
Bellingham, Washington

Dottie Gallagher-Cohen
President & CEO
Buffalo Niagara Partnership
Buffalo, New York

Business Council of Canada
Ottawa, Ontario

Kelly D. Johnston
Vice President – Government Affairs
Campbell Soup Company
Camden, New Jersey

R. Glenn Williamson
CEO & Founder
Canada Arizona Business Council
Phoenix, Arizona

Mark R. High
President
Canada-US Business Association
Detroit, Michigan/Windsor, Ontario

Stephen J. Petras, Jr.
US National Director
Canada-United States Law Institute
Cleveland, Ohio

Carlo Dade
Director, Centre on Trade and Investment Policy
The Canada West Foundation
Calgary, Alberta

Jim Phillips
President & CEO
Canadian/American Border Trade Alliance (Can/Am BTA)
Lewiston, New York

Maryscott Greenwood
Senior Advisor
Canadian-American Business Council
Washington, DC

Joy Nott
President and CEO
Canadian Association of Importers and Exporters (I.E.Canada)
Toronto, Ontario

Paul Meade, M.Sc., MPH
President
Canadian Business Association of North Carolina
Raleigh, North Carolina

The Honourable Perrin Beatty
President & Chief Executive Officer
The Canadian Chamber of Commerce
Ottawa, Ontario

Mathew Wilson
Senior Vice President
Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters
Ottawa, Ontario

David Bradley
Chief Executive Officer
Canadian Trucking Alliance
Toronto, Ontario

Colin Robertson
Ottawa, Ontario

Mark Fisher
President and CEO
Council of the Great Lakes Region
Cleveland, Ohio and Toronto, Ontario

Alain Aubertin, Ph.D
Vice-président, Développement des affaires et international
Vice President, Business Development and International
Consortium de recherche et d'innovation en aérospatiale au Québec
Consortium for Research and Innovation in Aerospace in Québec
Montreal, Quebec

Dr. Bill Anderson
Director
The Cross-Border Institute at the University of Windsor
Windsor, Ontario

Ed Wolking
Chair
Great Lakes Manufacturing Council
Detroit, Michigan

Alicia M. Duval
Senior Vice-President, Industry Relations and Public Affairs
GS1 Canada
Toronto, Ontario

Dr. Christopher Sands
Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies &
Director, Center for Canadian Studies
Washington, DC

Dunniela Kaufman
Kaufman Trade Law
Washington, DC

Cyndee Todgham Cherniak
Counsel
LexSage Professional Corporation
Toronto, Ontario

Jeff Agnew
Co-Founder
NAFTANEXT
Washington, DC

Leslie Blakey
Co-Founder
NAFTANEXT
Washington, DC

Tiffany Melvin
President
North American Strategy for Competitiveness (NASCO)
Dallas, Texas

Jeff Musson
Founder
Northof41.com
Toronto, Ontario

Dan Ujcz
President
The Ohio-Canada Business Association
Columbus, Ohio

Aaron Bates
Commercialization Executive
The Ohio Federal Research Network
Cleveland, Ohio

Matt Morrison
Executive Director
Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER)
Seattle, Washington

Eric Miller
President
Rideau Potomac Strategy Group
Alexandria, Virginia

Tim W. Brown
President
Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments
Toledo, Ohio

Dr. Kathryn Friedman
Global Fellow, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Canada Institute
Research Associate Professor of Law & Planning
University at Buffalo
Buffalo, New York

Beth-Anne Schuelke-Leech, PEng, MBA, PhD
Assistant Professor, Engineering Management and Entrepreneurship
Centre for Engineering Innovation
Department of Mechanical, Automotive, and Materials Engineering, Faculty of Engineering
University of Windsor
Windsor, Ontario

Jodi Hanson Bond
Vice President, Americas
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Washington, DC

John D. Tennant
Managing Partner
W2N2 Partnership
Waterloo Region, Ontario