

Premier Rob Lantz  
Chair, Council of the Federation (COF)  
Suite 630, 360 Albert Street  
Ottawa, Ontario K1R 7X7

Dear Premier Lantz,

We commend the significant strides made over the past year in addressing barriers to economic growth and boosting Canadian business competitiveness.

On January 31, 2025, the Chambers of the Federation released An Agenda for Economic Growth and Stability, a unanimous set of recommendations to Canada's premiers. Our agenda included:

1. Remove Barriers to Interprovincial and Labour Mobility
2. Support a Coordinated "Team Canada" Approach to U.S. Trade Relations
3. Advance Energy Infrastructure and Cross-Border Collaboration
4. Streamline Approval Processes for Energy and Critical Minerals Projects
5. Strengthen Domestic Procurement
6. Strengthen Trade Infrastructure and Supply Chain Resilience

We were pleased to present our recommendations to Premier Ford during his year as COF chair, and we are eager to build on this collaboration with you and the other premiers in 2026.

In 2025, Canada's provinces, territories, and the federal government delivered tangible progress, enhancing economic resilience amid ongoing U.S. tariffs and global uncertainties. The signing of the Canadian Mutual Recognition Agreement (CMRA) marks a historic step forward, eliminating barriers for thousands of goods and supporting labour mobility. The federal government's removal of all remaining exceptions from the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA) has further streamlined interprovincial trade, aligning with our calls for regulatory harmonization.

Initiatives like the trucking pilot project and advancements in credential recognition for skilled trades, bolstered by Budget 2025's \$97-million Foreign Credential Recognition Action Fund, are helping alleviate workforce shortages and boost productivity. These reforms are already unlocking economic potential, with estimates indicating that full barrier removal could add up to \$200 billion to Canada's GDP annually.

However, critical gaps remain that continue to impose unnecessary costs and burdens on businesses, consumers, and the national economy.

Food and alcohol products remain excluded from the CMRA, perpetuating inconsistent regulations that hinder interprovincial shipping and market access for producers. While some provinces have committed to MOUs for direct-to-consumer alcohol sales by May 2026, broader harmonization is needed to support craft industries and reduce consumer costs.

In transportation, while standards for vehicle inspections and driver qualifications are progressing, full national alignment on weight limits and safety enforcement requires accelerated implementation. Regulatory barriers in infrastructure permitting persist, despite promising steps like the Building Canada Act, limiting East-West projects essential for energy security and trade resilience.

At the same time, labour mobility remains underdeveloped. We encourage the COF to adopt a comprehensive labour-mobility and credential-recognition agenda, including:

- Streamlined credential recognition for internationally trained professionals, helping them enter the workforce more quickly;
- Accelerated mutual recognition of skilled trades credentials across provinces, supported by firm timelines;
- Harmonization of key regulatory requirements (Workers' Compensation, OH&S standards, etc.) that currently block worker mobility; and
- a national framework with clear commitments, accountability, and implementation schedules.

As governments consider priorities for the year ahead, it is essential to view labour mobility as a core driver of national competitiveness. As we seek to prioritize efforts going forward, measures that remove direct costs for the broadest base of businesses should be at the top of the list, as governments continue their work to bolster national competitiveness.

As the COF continues to prioritize internal trade and labour mobility, we urge you to build on the momentum with bold, comprehensive action. Extending mutual recognition to food and alcohol, fully implementing a unified framework for skilled trades credentials, and advancing a Canada Trade Infrastructure Plan will ensure that these reforms deliver lasting benefits for Canadians. Enhancing transparency through the Regulatory Reconciliation and Cooperation Table (RCT), and engaging stakeholders throughout the process, will further strengthen progress.

### **Request**

Our chambers remain committed to supporting this work. In the months ahead, we will collaborate on an updated series of recommendations to Canada's premiers. To discuss our recommendations and strengthen collaboration between business and government leaders, we look forward to meeting with you and your colleagues during the COF meetings taking place in Prince Edward Island in July 2026.

Sincerely,

Rhonda Tulk-Lane  
Chair, Chambers of the Federation  
President & CEO  
Atlantic Chamber of Commerce

Daniel Tisch  
President & CEO  
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Véronique Proulx  
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