

Sustaining Momentum on Internal Trade and Economic Cooperation Across Canada

Dear Premiers,

On behalf of Canada's provincial and territorial Chambers of Commerce, we commend you for the leadership and momentum emerging from the recent First Ministers' meeting in Saskatoon. As you prepare for next month's Council of the Federation meeting in Ontario, we encourage you to build on this progress to advance our shared economic priorities.

We are encouraged by historic alignment between businesses and governments across the country. Chambers of commerce, employers, and industry leaders are united in calling for bold action on internal trade, nation-building infrastructure, labour mobility, and procurement reform. Governments are responding in kind, with meaningful progress underway in several provinces and territories.

We applaud this leadership and the tangible progress underway in the following areas:

- **Interprovincial trade and labour mobility:** Provinces and territories have made significant strides in committing to reduce barriers to internal trade and labour mobility:
 - Nova Scotia passed its *Free Trade and Mobility within Canada Act, 2025*.
 - Ontario passed the *Protect Ontario Through Free Trade Within Canada Act, 2025* expanding “as-of-right” credential recognition, mandating clear regulatory timelines, and increasing transparency. The province also signed mutual recognition memoranda of understanding with Saskatchewan, Alberta, Manitoba and Prince Edward Island.
 - Manitoba passed *Bill 47: The Fair Trade in Canada (Internal Trade Mutual Recognition) Act*, which removes internal trade and labour mobility barriers and aligns Manitoba's standards with other jurisdictions across Canada.
 - Prince Edward Island enacted its own *Interprovincial Trade and Mobility Act, 2025* streamlining credential recognition with limited exceptions.
 - Newfoundland & Labrador and New Brunswick signed a bilateral memorandum to enhance cooperation on trade and labour mobility.
 - Quebec introduced legislation to reduce barriers to goods and professional mobility while retaining oversight for strategic exceptions.
 - British Columbia enacted the *Economic Stabilization (Tariff Response) Act, 2025*, designed, in part, to remove or amend barriers that impede interprovincial trade.
- **National energy and trade corridor:** There is growing momentum toward a pan-Canadian energy and infrastructure corridor. The First Ministers' endorsement of “One Canadian Economy” marked a pivotal step towards establishing a national corridor to facilitate the efficient movement of energy and critical resources across jurisdictions.

The momentum has spurred federal action, including legislation to create a Major Projects and Corridor Coordination Office and implement a two-year approval timeline for nationally significant projects. It is encouraging to see provinces beginning to operationalize this vision. Ontario recently released [Energy for Generations](#), an integrated energy plan that includes a commitment to support the development of a national energy corridor. Meanwhile, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba are exploring joint infrastructure planning, and the Atlantic provinces are advancing regional energy integration.

- **Strategic procurement reform:** Provinces and territories are increasingly aligning procurement practices with domestic industrial strategies, responding directly to our call to better leverage public purchasing power. For example:
 - Ontario has empowered Supply Ontario to prioritize Canadian suppliers and account for local economic impact, particularly in sectors like manufacturing and life sciences.
 - British Columbia has expanded its Buy BC program to strengthen agrifood, Indigenous businesses, and regional supply chains.
 - Atlantic provinces continue to harmonize procurement practices through the Atlantic Procurement Agreement.
 - Saskatchewan has also recently committed to prioritizing Canadian suppliers across all government procurement – directing nearly 90% of contracts to local firms and over 99% to Canadian companies.
 - Several jurisdictions are also actively applying trade agreement flexibilities to support Canadian firms. Together, these actions mark a strategic shift toward procurement that builds resilience, enhances capacity, and delivers lasting economic value.

As you continue to collaborate and act to benefit all Canadians, we urge you to prioritize the following items at your upcoming meeting:

1. **Implement a coordinated credential recognition and labour mobility framework:** Mutual recognition agreements are a big step, and an essential beginning. The next steps are to agree on a consistent, multilateral and pan-Canadian approach, and to move quickly to implement it. Provinces and territories should align practices in regulated professions and skilled trades by introducing common timelines, enabling digital credential tracking, and establishing enforcement mechanisms. We urge you to empower regulators and work with national standard-setting bodies, such as the Canadian Standards Association, to support alignment, reduce duplication, and move fast on harmonization. Let's start with high-impact sectors like health care and infrastructure-related professions, so that Canadians can start to see the benefits from your leadership.
2. **Advance the national energy and infrastructure corridor:** Work collaboratively with the federal government and Indigenous leaders to define corridor routes, establish cost-sharing frameworks, and streamline regulatory approvals for projects of strategic importance. This could include coordinated investment in transmission lines, pipelines, rail networks and ports to ensure our energy resources, minerals and manufactured goods can reach new markets. Coordinated action across all orders of government is essential to unlocking the economic and geopolitical potential of a pan-Canadian corridor.
3. **Leverage procurement to strengthen domestic industry:** Encourage coordinated Buy-Canadian approaches by aligning scoring criteria, local economic impact assessments, and supplier access across jurisdictions. By making full use of the flexibility in our trade agreements, you can help prioritize domestic suppliers in key sectors such as clean tech and agrifood. Let's make procurement as a driver of Canadian competitiveness and capacity.
4. **Prepare for the renewal of the Canada–United States–Mexico Agreement (CUSMA):** With the prospect of Canada and the U.S. resolving the immediate trade dispute by mid-July, the focus must shift to thorough preparation for the CUSMA renewal. The current uncertainty in the trading relationship underscores the need to reinforce a stable, predictable, and enforceable framework. Now is the time to align federal, provincial and territorial priorities to ensure Canada

approaches the 2026 negotiations with a unified and well-prepared front. Provinces and territories have a critical role to play in shaping Canada's trade interests, and early coordination will be essential. A pan-Canadian strategy should prioritize resilient supply chains, labour mobility, and energy integration.

Our Chambers stand ready to support this next phase of action through policy input, business engagement, and cross-jurisdictional coordination. With continued leadership from both government and business, this growing spirit of unity can translate into meaningful, long-term economic progress for all Canadians.

Sincerely,



Daniel Tisch
President and CEO
Ontario Chamber of Commerce



Véronique Proulx President and CEO
Fédération des chambres de commerce
du Québec



Rhonda Tulk-Lane
CEO
Atlantic Chamber of Commerce



Atlantic Chamber of Commerce
Chambre de commerce
de l'Atlantique



Chuck Davidson
President and CEO
Manitoba Chamber of
Commerce



Alex McMillan
President and CEO (interim)
British Columbia Chamber
of Commerce



Prabha Ramaswamy
CEO
Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce



Shauna Feth
President and CEO
Alberta Chamber of
Commerce

