

Chambers of the Federation

An Agenda for a More Competitive Canada

*Presented to Canada's Premiers
Charlottetown, PEI, July 2026*

INTRODUCTION

The Chambers of the Federation Policy Framework reflects a collaborative effort among provincial and territorial chambers of commerce to address shared challenges and unlock opportunities that benefit all Canadians.

With geopolitical tensions, trade disruptions, and global economic shifts intensifying, Canada must act decisively to strengthen national sovereignty, secure supply chains, and enhance competitiveness.

Building on recent progress under the *Canadian Free Trade Agreement*, expanded interprovincial labour mobility measures, the *Canadian Mutual Recognition Agreement on the Sale of Goods* and the *Free Trade and Labour Mobility in Canada Act*, provinces and territories now have a critical opportunity to move from commitment to full implementation, including through alignment with federal initiatives like *Powering Canada Strong*.

This joint submission offers a proactive, business-informed agenda for the Council of the Federation. It presents a united vision and practical recommendations to drive economic growth, trade competitiveness, and long-term prosperity across all regions.



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TOP 10 ACTIONS FOR 2026-2027

These actions are intended to be advanced over the next 12–24 months, leveraging existing intergovernmental mechanisms and provincial leadership:

- 1. Launch time-bound regulatory reviews to remove internal trade barriers.**
- 2. Expand mutual recognition across all jurisdictions, moving fast on beverage alcohol, food and other priorities.**
- 3. Implement faster credential recognition and labour mobility, including internationally trained professionals.**
- 4. Coordinate provincial-territorial positions in support of federal leadership on the ongoing CUSMA review and broader international trade priorities.**
- 5. Identify and advance 2–3 nationally significant trade and energy corridors.**
- 6. Align provincial infrastructure investments with shared priorities.**
- 7. Accelerate approvals for major nation-building projects.**
- 8. Conduct risk assessments and strengthen supply chain resilience.**
- 9. Align and modernize public procurement systems.**
- 10. Establish coordinated governance, accountability and public reporting mechanisms.**

1. BUILD ONE CANADIAN ECONOMY: INTERNAL TRADE, LABOUR MOBILITY & REGULATORY ALIGNMENT

Premiers must ensure Canada operates as a single domestic market for goods, services, and labour by moving from commitments to implementation on internal trade, labour mobility, and regulatory alignment.

- Mandate ministries and regulators to conduct time-bound reviews (12–24 months) to identify and eliminate or align high-impact interprovincial barriers, with public progress tracking.
- Expand mutual recognition by default for goods, services, and credentials, transitioning bilateral agreements into pan-Canadian frameworks. Move fast to implement existing commitments in priority sectors, including beverage alcohol and food products, with clear timelines and public reporting.
- Implement enforceable service standards for credential recognition (e.g., 30 days or less) and enable provisional licensing.
- Advance national harmonization of permitting timelines, routing rules, and clearance requirements to improve the efficiency of cross-provincial freight movement.
- Scale proven models for credential recognition, such as the Atlantic Physician Registry and Saskatchewan's *Fair Practices Registration Act*, nationally.
- Enhance data-sharing tools so businesses can easily identify and report barriers.

2. COMPETE GLOBALLY THROUGH A “TEAM CANADA” APPROACH

Premiers should work collaboratively with the federal government and business leaders to strengthen Canada's position in an uncertain global environment.

- Establish a provincial-territorial coordination table to develop positions for the CUSMA review, coordinate responses to tariffs and trade disruptions, and produce joint sector-specific recommendations.
- Align on a “Team Canada” engagement plan by coordinating provincial/territorial outreach to U.S. and international partners in support of federal leadership of international trade negotiations. Work with chambers of commerce and industry associations to strengthen cross-border business relationships and respond to trade disruptions, tariffs and market access challenges.
- Conduct risk assessments of critical supply chains (energy, food, healthcare) within 12–18 months and develop contingency plans to address identified vulnerabilities.
- Align provincial export strategies to support market diversification and SME participation.

3. BUILD AND CONNECT CANADA'S ENERGY AND TRADE INFRASTRUCTURE

Premiers should strengthen energy security by improving reliability, affordability, and interprovincial connectivity while supporting the national objective of doubling electricity generation by 2050.

- Through the Council of the Federation, identify 2–3 priority national energy and trade corridors for recommendation to the federal government and develop implementation roadmaps.
- Advance east-west electricity transmission, interties, and grid integration strategies to better connect provincial systems, balance loads, and reduce duplicative infrastructure.
- Align provincial capital plans and budgets with these shared priorities and coordinate joint funding proposals.
- Strengthen collaboration with U.S. states on cross-border energy infrastructure and regulatory alignment.
- Support domestic manufacturing of grid components and workforce training to create high-wage jobs and build supply chain resilience.
- Prioritize projects that improve energy access and affordability in rural, remote, and northern regions.

4. ACCELERATE APPROVALS FOR NATION-BUILDING PROJECTS

Premiers are encouraged to adopt a “pathways to yes” approach for projects of national and interprovincial importance, aligning with federal efforts to streamline approvals and improve regulatory certainty, working in partnership with Indigenous nations and communities.

- Mandate streamlined approval processes with clear service standards and single-window project offices.
- Align provincial impact assessments to serve as the foundation for federal approvals, reducing duplication, improving certainty, and accelerating project delivery.
- Establish priority project lists (e.g., energy, critical minerals, infrastructure) updated annually, with target timelines (e.g., 2 years for priority approvals).
- Create interprovincial mechanisms to resolve disputes and advance projects with shared benefits.

5. STRENGTHEN DOMESTIC PROCUREMENT AND INDUSTRIAL CAPACITY

Premiers should use public procurement strategically to strengthen domestic industrial capacity, improve supply chain resilience, and support Canadian businesses.

- Review and align procurement policies across jurisdictions to remove barriers and prioritize domestic suppliers where permitted under existing trade agreements.

- Increase the weighting of economic benefits and supply-chain resilience in procurement decisions, particularly in strategic sectors including energy, manufacturing, agri-food, critical minerals, and steel.
- Develop interoperable digital platforms and publish forward procurement pipelines to increase supplier participation, improve market visibility, and support the growth of Canadian businesses.
- Pilot joint or bulk procurement in key sectors to help Canadian suppliers scale, strengthen domestic supply chains, and encourage supplier diversification.

NEXT STEPS

The Chambers of the Federation urge premiers to:

1. Commit to immediate discussions on implementing these recommendations, including the formation of intergovernmental working groups and formal avenues for Indigenous participation.
2. Leverage existing best practices and agreements to pilot scalable solutions in labour mobility, trade harmonization, and energy corridors.
3. Establish clear timelines, accountability measures, and annual public reporting through the Council of the Federation and Committee on Internal Trade to track outcomes and maintain momentum.