



Resolution on Modernized North American Free Trade Agreement

- WHEREAS, the United States and Canada have one of the largest trading relationships in the world, and Canada is the United States' largest export market, valued at CDN\$411 billion/US\$320 billion in goods and services and the United States is Canada's largest export market, valued at CDN\$396 billion/US\$308 billion in goods and services; and
- WHEREAS, the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) believes that free, fair, open and mutually beneficial trade between our two countries will continue to strengthen the economies of both countries; and
- WHEREAS, in 2016, trade between the United States and Canada totaled over CDN\$2.2 billion/US\$1.7 billion in goods and services every day, supporting 9 million jobs in the U.S., and 2.1 million jobs in Canada; and
- WHEREAS, in 2016, two-way trade within the PNWER region totaled CDN\$29 billion/US\$22.6 billion, supporting jobs linked through various integrated regional supply chains, with CDN\$9.3 billion/US\$7.3 billion in goods and services exported to Canadian PNWER jurisdictions from the U.S. PNWER jurisdictions and CDN\$19.7 billion/US\$15.3 billion exported from Canadian PNWER jurisdictions to U.S. PNWER jurisdictions; and
- WHEREAS, in the more than 20 years since the three countries entered into the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), North American trade has tripled from CDN\$437 billion/US\$340 billion (in 1993) to CDN\$1.5 trillion/US\$1.2 trillion (in 2016); and
- WHEREAS, North American integration under NAFTA has helped to make the region more competitive in the world economy by providing highly integrated and valuable supply chains, common rules and harmonized regulations that increase the speed and global competitiveness of our businesses, driving investment and imbedding value in each others' economic success, and providing jobs in North American communities that depend on efficient and effective supply chains; and
- WHEREAS, Addressing North America's economic challenges requires a common understanding of competitiveness and the true underpinnings of prosperity. We define competitiveness as follows. A nation is competitive to the extent that firms operating there can compete successfully in domestic and international markets while also lifting the living standards of the average citizen. Competitiveness must lead to shared prosperity, in which all North Americans have the opportunity to advance economically.

- WHEREAS, increased economic integration and ease of cross-border trade within various sectors such as services, manufacturing, energy, and agriculture, have contributed to stable and reliable economic relations as well as prosperity and jobs on both sides of the border; and
- WHEREAS, Canada and the U.S. both support making targeted improvements to NAFTA that build on the enormously successful North American partnership and our shared competitiveness in the global marketplace; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED, that the PNWER organization supports the modernization of NAFTA to enhance the existing economic relationships within PNWER jurisdictions in a mutually beneficial manner; and be it further
- RESOLVED, that PNWER continues to encourage our countries to respect the spirit of NAFTA by promoting policies that support and enhance the integrated nature of our supply chains and economies that provide jobs in our respective communities; and be it further
- RESOLVED, that PNWER supports improvements that enhance the commitment and the success for all parties of NAFTA; and be it further
- RESOLVED that PNWER members encourage their federal governments to strive towards a modernized NAFTA that builds upon its current success to further enhance trade and investment in North America
- RESOLVED, that this resolution be submitted to appropriate provincial, state, territorial and federal officials.

Adopted this 5th day of November, 2017 during the PNWER Economic Leadership Forum in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.