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**Notes for remarks by**  
**THE HONOURABLE STOCKWELL DAY**  
**MINISTER OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
**North American Forum**

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## *Introduction*

Thank you \_\_\_\_\_, for the kind introduction.

It's a pleasure to have the opportunity to speak to such a distinguished audience.

I have to congratulate the chairmen for their efforts in assembling this Forum. It is quite an undertaking to get so many people from different sectors together in one room.

Discussing the issues that we all share as a continent is crucial to each of our nations. And the business community, academia and governments all have an important voice in these discussions.

### *Our geographic partnership on this continent requires a partnership that protects this continent.*

The United States is Canada's biggest trading partner, and vice versa: \$1.9 billion and more than a quarter-of-a-million people cross our border every day. It's the biggest bilateral trade relationship in the world.

The U.S. gets more of its oil from Canada than from any other country – two million barrels a day.

After the U.S., Canada is Mexico's biggest customer. Trade between our two countries is now worth some \$20 billion a year.<sup>1</sup>

The U.S. is the number one destination for Canadian tourists. Mexico is number two.

This north-south trade is the life-blood of all three of our nations. We have to keep those goods and people moving back-and-forth across our national borders. There's no alternative.

Unfortunately, a lot of other things can cross our national borders, and we have to make every effort to minimize the risk to our mutual security. Again, there is no alternative.

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<sup>1</sup> International Trade Canada, *Canada-Mexico Partnership: Report to Leaders* (September 2005), accessed at <http://www.itcan-cican.gc.ca/cmp-en.asp#dynamic>

***The Government of Canada is committed to public safety and to providing a secure foundation for economic prosperity.***

Incidents of terrorism, natural and accidental disasters, epidemics of disease, illicit drugs, organized crime – they threaten public safety, and they threaten our economic well-being.

We have to protect our citizens and we have to protect our economies from these kinds of threats.

This Government is determined to do that and, to borrow a well-used phrase, we're putting our money where our mouth is:

- The Budget this Government tabled in May will invest \$1.4 billion over two years in securing our borders, protecting Canadians in their homes and communities, and positioning Canada to identify and counter threats to public health.
- As announced recently, 400 new permanent Canada Border Services Agency officers will be hired, trained and equipped so that they are no longer required to work alone. Also, 4,400 CBSA officers at land and marine ports of entry, as well as officers who perform enforcement functions inland, will be trained and equipped with side arms.
- We have also started the process to recruit 1,000 new RCMP personnel and federal prosecutors.
- We are investing more than \$130 million to enhance air transport security, and \$95 million to improve passenger rail and urban transit security.
- We're investing in better information-gathering from flights out of the European Union, and strengthening our ability to track money-laundering and terror-financing schemes.
- We have committed \$1 billion over five years to meet the threat of human or avian influenza pandemic, including adding to our national stockpile of antiviral drugs.

We will make sure Canada is ready to respond to all events that might threaten our domestic and continental public safety and security.

***The Government of Canada is committed to working with its partners to safeguard the security and prosperity of North America.***

We know that we cannot build security and prosperity in isolation. We have to approach them as two sides of the same coin, and we must work together.

Prime Minister Harper was very clear in stating Canada's commitment to such co-operation during the Leaders' Summit held in Cancun this past March.

Recognizing the interrelationship of security and prosperity, the Prime Minister tasked Minister Bernier and me with the responsibility of leading Canada's involvement in the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America (SPP).

At Cancun, all three Leaders agreed on immediate priorities for the SPP, including Pandemic Preparedness and Smart, Secure Borders.

In this year's Budget, my Government delivered on these priorities.

The Leaders' Summit in Cancun also saw the creation of the North American Competitiveness Council, which is responsible for providing advice to Leaders on how to enhance North America's competitive position in global markets.

Since Cancun, good progress has been made on trilateral initiatives, as well as bilaterally. These accomplishments, as well as those over the last year, are contained in a status report which my fellow SPP Ministers in all three countries and I have just delivered to Leaders.

For example, Canada has agreed with our North American neighbours to implement an integrated planning and response system for avian/or pandemic influenza. Right now, this is more of an insurance policy, but it's a step that we need to take.

Such bilateral and trilateral work is only natural. The U.S. and Mexico share a border, and the U.S. and Canada share a border, and each border has its own unique challenges and solutions.

I can say without hesitation that Canada and the United States have an excellent security relationship.

It's good that we do: we share a border more than 7,000 kilometres long. There's more trade between the U.S. and Canada crossing a single bridge between Detroit and Windsor than all the trade between the U.S. and Japan.

There is a long and growing list of initiatives where Canada and the U.S. work together to enhance our mutual security and prosperity.

We have Integrated Border Enforcement Teams in place in 23 different locations along the Canada/U.S. border. They combine the intelligence and law enforcement expertise from both countries to target cross-border criminal activity between ports of entry.

We are also building stronger partnerships between industry and our Canada Border Services Agency and its U.S. counterpart, Customs and Border Protection to better protect the supply chain.

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Also, we're increasing our commitment to work with the U.S. on business resumption planning for border crossings in the event of border closure following an emergency or increased alert levels.

While we beef up security and enforcement, we are also collaborating on programs that make the border less of a hurdle for low-risk trade and legitimate travelers.

Over the next two years, we are putting \$172 million into developing an electronic advance notification system for cargo that moves by road and rail. This builds on a similar system already in place for maritime and air trade.

We have developed programs such as FAST – the Free and Secure Trade initiative – and NEXUS for air, highway and marine travelers. These use new information-sharing networks, and technologies like biometrics to make the border more secure and more efficient by speeding up access for low-risk, frequent and pre-approved travelers.

In fact, the NEXUS-Air pilot project has been so successful that we have provided \$25 million over two years in the Budget to support its expansion to other airports around the country.

But some challenges remain.

For example, I've discussed Canada's concerns about the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative with Secretary Chertoff on two occasions.

Prime Minister Harper has discussed these concerns with President Bush. And following their meeting, President Bush helpfully called for the implementation of WHTI to be as simple and flexible as the law permits.

We continue to work with our American colleagues to assess what documents could be acceptable alternatives to passports for Canadians entering the U.S.

We see the benefits, and I'm sure you do too, of this type of cooperation and information-sharing on a regular basis – the break-up of a major marijuana-smuggling operation on the west coast in July, as well as the arrest of a number of people alleged to be associated with the Tamil Tigers terrorist group in the U.S. and Canada last month, are just two recent examples.

Working together is the only way we'll continue to make progress on these issues.

The Security and Prosperity Partnership is proving to be a good instrument to promote the kind of cooperation we need.

Canada is looking forward to hosting the Leaders' Summit in 2007.

Before the Summit, the Minister of Industry and I will meet with our counterparts in the U.S. and Mexico in preparation for this meeting. We'll also hold our first meeting with the North American Competitiveness Council at that time. We are all looking forward to their recommendations, and I'm sure these will play an important part in informing the Leaders' discussions at the next summit.

The private sector is the engine of our prosperity. We need to know your concerns, and we need your ideas. We all want the same thing: a smart and secure border.

### ***Conclusion***

With the Security and Prosperity Partnership, we have a framework that allows three nations to work together to identify joint priorities, and to design and implement the strategies that allow us to achieve those priorities.

We can do that because – although we are three very different countries – we share the same goals. We want our citizens to be safe and we want our citizens to prosper.

The SPP leaders' summit next year in Canada will continue to drive forward our agenda for increasing the security and prosperity of North America.

In preparation for this summit, we will continue to consult with Canadians. There are a lot of prominent Canadians here with us today who've thought a great deal about the future of North America, and I would particularly welcome your advice and input.

Again, I would like to congratulate this forum and the work that it is doing, and for preparing such a thought provoking and timely agenda.

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