

DEEP INTEGRATION: A TIMELINE



September 11, 2001

The Canada-U.S. border closes temporarily after terrorists attack the World Trade Center buildings in New York City.

September 25, 2001

Citing 9/11, Thomas d'Aquino, president of the Business Council on National Issues (now the Canadian Council of Chief Executives), says that Canada "should engage in more fundamental harmonization and integration" with the U.S. if we are going to keep the border open to trade.

November 26, 2001

Thomas d'Aquino and other unnamed "leaders" send a letter to Jean Chrétien and George W. Bush calling for a "smart border" between Canada and the U.S. that would "use technology to enhance both security and the flow of goods and people across the border."

December 12, 2001

Without legislative or public debate, Deputy Prime Minister John Manley and Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge sign the Smart Border Declaration, a 30-point plan to harmonize security and anti-terrorism regulations in the two countries, including the creation of a common no-fly list and passenger surveillance system.

April 2002

The C.D. Howe Institute releases a report by University of Toronto professor Wendy Dobson calling for "deeper integration" with the United States, including a North American customs union, a common market, a resource sharing pact and full participation in the U.S. "war on terror."

June 28, 2002

John Manley and Tom Ridge announce progress on the Smart Border Declaration, including "stepped up intelligence cooperation" and "a common approach to screen international air passengers before they arrive in either country and identify those who warrant additional security scrutiny."

September 26, 2002

Canadian citizen Maher Arar is detained at New York's John F. Kennedy Airport and held for 12 days, then deported to Syria where he is imprisoned and tortured for a year. In 2006, a Canadian government commission into the affair blames the hasty sharing of faulty information between Canadian and U.S. security agencies.

January 2003

The CCCE launches the "North American Security and Prosperity Initiative," calling on the governments of Canada, Mexico and the U.S. to further integrate their three economies through a "new deal." The deal would include a "comprehensive resource security pact" covering agriculture, metal, minerals and energy; "sharing the burden of defence and security"; and "creating a new institutional framework" for North American integration.

April 3, 2003

The CCCE establishes a 30-member "CEO Action Group on North American Security and Prosperity." Its members include leaders from Canada's largest corporations, including EnCana, Dofasco, CAE, General Motors, TransCanada Pipeline, BMO, Alcan and SNC Lavalin. "North American economic integration is well advanced and irreversible and now, in the face of global terrorism, the economic and physical security of the continent are indivisible," said Tom d'Aquino. "Canada and the United States should take the lead, in consultation with Mexico, in developing a new paradigm for North American co-operation."

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April 2004

Paul Martin's Liberal government unveils Canada's first-ever national security policy, called Securing an Open Society, which is aimed at responding to the new "threat environment" through a "coordinated approach with other key partners – provinces, territories, communities, the private sector and allies." While building on the Smart Border Declaration with the United States, the new security policy contains many elements that will end up in the Security and Prosperity Partnership, including increased cross-border cooperation on intelligence, pandemic preparedness and transportation security.

October 15, 2004

The U.S. Council on Foreign Relations launches a tri-national "Independent Task Force on the Future of North America," which is vice-chaired by CCCE President Thomas d'Aquino and co-chaired by John Manley. Task Force members include prominent integrationists like Wendy Dobson, Pedro Aspe, Luis de la Calle Pardo and Carla Hills, all of whom will later participate in a secret North American Forum meeting to discuss continental integration in Calgary, Alberta from September 12 to 14, 2006.

November 30, 2004

Following George W. Bush's first visit to Canada, then Prime Minister Paul Martin gives birth to the SPP by issuing a joint statement on common security and prosperity called, "A new partnership in North America." Security priorities include: "improving the coordination of intelligence-sharing, cross-border law enforcement and counter-terrorism; ... increasing the security of critical infrastructure, including transportation, energy, and communications networks," and to, "pursue joint approaches to partnerships, consensus standards, and smarter regulations that result in greater efficiency and competitiveness, while enhancing the health and safety of our citizens."

February 14, 2005

The Council of Canadians releases leaked minutes from an October 2004 Task Force on the Future of North America meeting that describe bulk water exports as a politically "hot" long term goal of integration that should be broached at a later date. Also being discussed by the task force are: eliminating current NAFTA exemptions for culture; "crafting a North American 'resource pact' that would allow for greater intra-regional trade and investment in certain non-renewable natural resources, such as oil, gas, and fresh water"; and a "North American brand name" to portray North America as a sort of "club of privileged members." There are also plans to encourage a North American identity among students in all three countries.

March 14, 2005

The Independent Task Force on the Future of North America releases a preliminary report, calling for the creation of a North American economic and security community by 2010. Although it didn't include controversial "hot" suggestions, such as a water-sharing agreement, among the report's key recommendations are the establishment of a continental security perimeter, a common external tariff, a common border pass for all North Americans, a North American energy and natural resources strategy, and an annual meeting where North American leaders can discuss steps toward economic and security integration.

March 23, 2005

At a meeting in Waco, Texas, George W. Bush, Paul Martin and Vicente Fox issue a joint statement announcing the creation of the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America. The tri-national agreement, which essentially brings Mexico into the Canada-U.S. "partnership" announced in November 2004, contains almost all of the recommendations on continental economic and security integration proposed by the Independent Task Force and the CCCE's Security and Prosperity Initiative before it.

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October 2005

The first North American Forum brings together U.S., Canadian and Mexican government and business representatives to discuss issues related to continental economic and social integration; it is held at a secret location in Sonoma, California. Invitees include John Manley, Mexican ambassador to the U.S. Carlos de Icaza, Chevron CEO David O'Reilly, former head of the CIA James Woolsey, and a host of U.S. policy advisors to George W. Bush. There is one article about the forum in the North American media.

January 10-11, 2006

The Council of the Americas, United Postal Service and the North American Business Committee host a "Public-Private Sector Dialogue on the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America" in Louisville, Kentucky. The meeting is attended by 50 government officials and business leaders from Canada, the U.S. and Mexico, including members of the Canadian Privy Council Office, the Mexican Presidency, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and corporate reps from ExxonMobil, DaimlerChrysler, Ford, Tyco, and FedEx. Attendees discussed "marrying policy issues with business priorities," musing that, "leadership from governments that recognizes the importance of business issues to the overall social welfare empowers the private sector to engage substantively and pragmatically on trade and security issues without undue deference to political sensibilities." A "North American Competitiveness Council" to drive the SPP process is proposed.

January 23, 2006

The Conservatives take office in Ottawa with a minority government as Prime Minister Stephen Harper promises to make Canada-U.S. relations a top priority despite polling data showing that the issue falls well below health care and the environment for the Canadian public.

March 31, 2006

At the second SPP summit in Cancun, Mexico, President Bush, Prime Minister Stephen Harper and then Mexican President Vicente Fox announce the creation of the North American Competitiveness Council (NACC). This corporate working group is charged with directing the SPP process and includes at least 10 CEOs from each country, including representatives from Lockheed Martin, Wal-Mart, General Motors, Home Depot Canada, Canfor and Suncor.

June 15, 2006

The NACC is officially launched at a joint press conference held by U.S. Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez, Mexican Economy Minister Sergio Garcia de Alba and Canadian Industry Minister Maxime Bernier. According to a report from the Council of the Americas, the purpose of institutionalizing the North American business community's involvement in the SPP process was "so that the work will continue through changes in administrations." Furthermore, the NACC is to make sure that, "governments look to the private sector to tell them what needs to be done." According to a Canadian government press release, the NACC "has a mandate to provide governments with recommendations on broad issues such as border facilitation and regulation, as well as the competitiveness of key sectors including automotive, transportation, manufacturing and services."

August 15, 2006

The NACC meets in Washington, D.C. to hash out priority issues for the SPP. The business leaders decide that the U.S. members will deal with "regulatory convergence," the Canadians will handle "border facilitation," and the Mexican members will devise a plan for "energy integration."

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September 12-14, 2006

The North American Forum meets for the second time, in Banff, Alberta, this time to discuss “demographic and social dimensions of North American integration,” security cooperation, and a “North American energy strategy.” Once again, the meeting is kept secret, despite the involvement of high-ranking military officials, politicians and top bureaucrats – including Stockwell Day, who refuses to disclose the content of his speech to the media.

November 23, 2006

The Harper government releases a financial outlook document called Advantage Canada: Building a Strong Economy for Canadians. Advantage Canada praises the SPP effort to seek regulatory convergence on border security. It also indicates that the federal government is working with the provinces to speed up and streamline the environmental assessment process, particularly as it affects cross-border infrastructure projects. Furthermore, Advantage Canada emphasizes the importance of huge trade corridors to the economic wellbeing of the country, and looks to the private sector to help with all new infrastructure projects. “For its part, Canada’s New Government intends to establish a federal P3 office that will facilitate a broader use of P3s in Canadian infrastructure projects,” says the document. “The Government will also encourage the development and use of P3 best practices by requiring that P3s be given consideration in larger infrastructure investments that receive federal program funding.” Under the SPP’s transportation agenda is an initiative to “examine the benefits of an intermodal transportation concept for north America,” the goal being to move foreign goods, mostly from Asia, quickly through North America to key markets in the United States.

February 8, 2007

Former industry minister Maxime Bernier and Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day join a handful of deputy ministers and government policy advisors at a dinner meeting in Ottawa with members of the NACC and CCCE, including Tom d’Aquino. According to information acquired by the NDP, the goal of the meeting was to provide an opportunity, “for Canadian members to regroup and focus their planning” in advance of the February 23, 2007 SPP ministerial meeting, also in Ottawa.

February 23, 2007

SPP ministers, including Maxime Bernier, David Emerson, Stockwell Day, and their U.S. counterparts Michael Chertoff and Carlos Gutierrez, meet with the NACC to discuss the progress of the integration agenda. The NACC releases a report containing 51 recommendations, including: “Complete negotiations, sign a new North American Regulatory Cooperation Framework in 2007, and ensure consistent application of standards and regulatory requirements within each country.” The corporate body suggests that, “upon signature of the framework, a North American Regulatory Cooperation and Standards Committee, which includes the private sector, should be formed to survey on a regular basis the variety of standards and regulatory differences by industry that impede trade and seek to reduce the identified differences or develop other mechanisms to lessen their impact on the competitiveness of North American industry.”

March 19, 2007

The Conservative government releases its 2007 budget – *Aspire to a Stronger, Safer, Better Canada* – in which it promises to “improve Canada’s regulatory framework” by “moving to finalize a new modern approach to smart regulation,” and by “working with the United States and Mexico through the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America to improve regulatory coordination and cooperation.” At the heart of the government’s strategy is the adoption of a new Cabinet Directive on Streamlining Regulation that will come into effect on April 1, 2007. Budget 2007 provides \$9 million over two years to implement this initiative.

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March 30-April 1, 2007

Over 1,500 people converge on Ottawa for Integrate This! Challenging the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America, a public teach-in on deep integration organized by the Council of Canadians, the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, the Canadian Labour Congress, Common Frontiers and a host of other groups.

April 1, 2007

The Government of Canada's new Cabinet Directive on Streamlining Regulation comes into effect, requiring that all government departments take into consideration the "cost or savings to government, business, or Canadians and the potential impact on the Canadian economy and its international competitiveness," as well as the "potential impact on other federal departments or agencies, other governments in Canada, or on Canada's foreign affairs" before moving ahead with new rules on everything from food and drugs to pesticides to the environment and public health. The directive moves regulation in Canada further away from the precautionary principle and more in line with the U.S. focus on risk assessment and voluntary compliance.

April 13, 2007

Leaked documents acquired by the Council of Canadians reveal that bulk water exports from Canada to the United States are in fact being discussed in relation to the SPP. The North American Future 2025 Project, which is led by the U.S.-based Center for Strategic and International Studies, the Conference Board of Canada and the Mexican Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas, involves a series of "closed-door meetings" on North American integration dealing with a number of highly contentious issues including bulk water exports, a joint security perimeter and a continental resource pact.

April 24, 2007

The Council of Canadians holds an "open-door" meeting in Calgary to discuss the threat of bulk water exports posed by North American integration and the SPP in light of closed-door meetings of government officials and business reps to discuss continental water management happening that same week.

April 27, 2007

North American transport ministers, including Conservative MP Lawrence Cannon, meet in Arizona for an SPP meeting, "in order to confirm and advance our commitment to developing coordinated, compatible and interconnected national transportation systems." Developing an "intermodal transportation concept for North America" is an SPP initiative. A key milestones under that initiative commits transport ministers to, "work toward establishing an intermodal corridor work plan and a Memorandum of Cooperation pilot project." The Arizona meeting, which the ministers describe as the first in a series, appears to be the beginning of this pilot project.

May 1, 2007

Council of Canadians National Chairperson Maude Barlow addresses the Commons Standing Committee on International Trade regarding the SPP, energy and bulk water exports.

May 7, 2007

CanWest News Service reports that Canada is set to raise its limits on pesticide residues on fruit and vegetables as "part of an effort to harmonize Canadian pesticide rules with those of the United States, which allows higher residue levels for 40 per cent of the pesticides it regulates." According to the article, which appeared in papers across the country, "the effort is being fast-tracked as an initiative under the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP), a wide-ranging plan to streamline regulatory and security protocols across North America." The article proves that regulatory harmonization as spelled out in NAFTA and the SPP puts downward pressure on regulations and that higher standards are rarely if ever mutually adopted between harmonizing parties.

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May 10, 2007

Conservative MPs storm out of parliamentary hearings into the SPP after the Tory chair of the Commons Standing Committee on International Trade interrupts a presentation from Council of Canadians board member Gordon Laxer linking the SPP to tar sands production. Committee chair Leon Benoit can't see the link between the SPP and energy security for Canada, despite "energy integration" being a key priority of the SPP and of the NACC. The meeting continues after all but one Conservative MP leaves the room.

June 11, 2007

Former industry minister Maxime Bernier, along with his chief of staff and several other policy advisors, meets with the three national NACC secretariats at the Americas Competitiveness Forum in Atlanta, Georgia. According to information acquired by the NDP, the minister received feedback on the NACC's recommendations and heard its next steps.

June 18, 2007

Transport Canada's "no-fly" list, called Passenger Protect, comes into effect. Airlines begin checking passenger names against a list of people deemed so dangerous to the flight that they should not be allowed to board. Passengers who appear on the list may appeal mistakes to an "office of reconsideration." Security experts agree that Canada's list will inevitably merge with the much larger U.S. "no-fly" list – a key priority of the SPP's security agenda. Canada's airlines have already been using the U.S. list, which contains almost 500,000 names, and news reports from late May 2007 indicate they will continue to rely on it rather than Passenger Protect.

July 31, 2007

Former industry minister Maxime Bernier and Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day attend a working lunch with eight of the 10 Canadian NACC members plus Tom d'Aquino of the CCCE, according to information obtained by the NDP. Topics for discussion include "expectations for [the] North American Leaders' Summit and Canadian priorities," the "role of the NACC," and an update on the Prime Minister's recent visit to Latin America.

August 17, 2007

In a sure sign that opposition to the SPP is making an impact, the Liberal party releases a report called, "Strong and Free: The Liberal Blueprint for the North American Leaders Summit at Montebello, Quebec." The report incorporates the Council of Canadians' demands on the SPP, including "disclosing the complete list of SPP working groups, their contact persons and participating membership [and] requiring them to provide opportunities for public input." Liberal party leader Stephane Dion promises, "Should the Prime Minister fail to level with Canadians, we will table a resolution calling on the government to inform Canadians of the work and negotiations of the SPP, and to report to the House of Commons to allow for parliamentary scrutiny and a full and informed debate when the Parliament reconvenes."

August 19, 2007

Thousands of people take to the streets of Ottawa to protest the SPP on the eve of the third annual Leaders Summit taking place the following day in Montebello, Quebec. According to later reports by the CBC, the Ottawa Police Service spent \$3.7 million on security for the day. Following the protest, the Council of Canadians brings hundreds of people together at a public forum at the University of Ottawa where they hear about deep integration from civil society representatives from Canada, the U.S. and Mexico, as well as from representatives of all four major opposition parties.

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August 20, 2007

Like the day before, thousands of protesters head to Montebello where they confront almost as many police officers surrounding the Fairmont hotel where Prime Minister Harper is meeting with Presidents Bush and Calderón. News reports several weeks later peg security costs for the Quebec police force alone at over \$7 million. Harper refers to the gathering outside as “sad,” while CCCE President Tom d’Aquino likens the protesters to barbarians at the gates. “I do not say to myself, ‘If I don’t get an hour with the prime minister in the next six months, I’m going to go out and protest and reject the system outright,’” he tells CBC News. “I don’t do that because civilized human beings – those who believe in democracy – don’t do that.” Later that night, d’Aquino and the CCCE spend another hour or two with Industry Minister Jim Prentice, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty and Bank of Canada Governor David Dodge, as well as several other deputy ministers, foreign officials and NACC members, at a dinner in Ottawa, according to information obtained by the NDP. Council of Canadians activist and filmmaker Paul Manley posts a video of the day’s events on YouTube that depicts what look like three rock-wielding undercover police officers – agents provocateurs – in the crowd.

August 21, 2007

The third annual SPP “Leaders Summit” wraps up in Montebello with a joint statement by Prime Minister Harper on progress and next steps. But the headlines are about the YouTube video depicting agents provocateurs. (The Quebec police force at first denies that there were undercover agents then admits it in an embarrassing flip-flop.) Harper makes light of the protests by claiming the leaders were discussing jellybeans, while at the same time he announces four major new SPP developments: an Intellectual Property Action Plan; the long-anticipated (by the business community) Regulatory Cooperation Framework; a North American Plan for Avian and Pandemic Influenza; and a treaty-level Agreement for Cooperation in Energy Science and Technology.” The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives will later release a report on regulatory harmonization with the United States in which it notes that a side-agreement – Regulatory Cooperation in the Area of Chemicals – that appears on the U.S. SPP website was not announced by the Canadian government.

October 12 - 14, 2007

The third annual North American Forum takes place in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. Like previous years, the guest list and agenda were kept secret but the Canadian Labour Congress receives a copy of the latter. According to the leaked agenda, this year’s forum was called, “North American Cooperation and Community.” Leonard Edwards, deputy minister of foreign affairs, moderated a session on the “Strategic dimensions of the North American security and prosperity partnerships,” while Tom d’Aquino spoke on a panel addressing the topic, “Investing in competitiveness: new ideas and options for infrastructure, borders and business – Public/private partnerships, municipal bonds and border development.”

October 16, 2007

The Munk Centre’s Project on Water Issues releases a report by Andrew Nikiforuk called, “On the Table: Water, Energy and North American Integration.” Confirming repeated statements by the Council of Canadians, the report states that: “There is now a formal framework for discussing Canada’s water as a trade item – the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP) – which met most recently in August 2007 at Montebello, Quebec... While this summit focused publicly on other continent-wide issues, the concept of trade in water has remained quietly but persistently present under the larger banner of trade relations.”

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November 29, 2007

A Federal Court judge rules that Canada must reconsider the Safe Third Country Agreement it signed with the United States in 2004, because, “Washington flouts conventions meant to safeguard immigrants against torture in their homelands,” according to a *Globe and Mail* article. The Safe Third Country agreement was a cornerstone of the Smart Border Declaration of 2001 and a major component of the plan to harmonize refugee and immigration policies. The court gives both parties (the Government of Canada and the Canadian Council for Refugees) until January 14 to make and respond to submissions for an appeal.

January 22, 2008

British Columbia becomes the first province to offer an “enhanced driver’s licence” compatible with licences in Washington State to meet new U.S. security demands amidst widespread public concern with the new technology. Canada’s Federal Privacy Commissioner slams the cards as tamper-prone and unnecessary. “RFID technology would make it possible for governments to track individuals carrying enhanced driver’s licenses and access personal information stored on the card,” she says in a subsequent press release. The new licence, which requires the sharing and storing of citizenship and other personal information with U.S. authorities, has the potential to become a de facto North American ID card through ongoing initiatives of the SPP.

January 28, 2008

In his final State of the Union address, President Bush announces that the next SPP summit will take place at the end of April in New Orleans. “Tonight the armies of compassion continue the march to a new day in the Gulf Coast,” said Bush, referring to the record number of charitable and faith-based groups filling in where the U.S. government continues to pull out of social service provision and disaster recovery plans. “America honors the strength and resilience of the people of this region. We reaffirm our pledge to help them build stronger and better than before. And tonight I’m pleased to announce that in April we will host this year’s North American Summit of Canada, Mexico, and the United States in the great city of New Orleans.” A subsequent White House press release clarifies that the summit will take place April 21 and 22, 2008. The Harper government issues no such press release.

February 8, 2008

Prime Minister Harper creates a Cabinet Committee on Afghanistan and an Afghanistan Task Force based on recommendations from John Manley’s earlier task force on Canada’s role in the ongoing occupation. At the head of the Cabinet Committee is former Liberal and former Canfor CEO David Emerson – hardly a military expert but very tight with Washington. Emerson, a former vice-chair of the CCCE, has been an SPP minister since the beginning, first as Industry Minister with two previous Liberal governments, then as International Trade Minister with the Conservatives since February 2006. His involvement with the Afghanistan file is more proof that the mission has more to do with appeasing the Americans than with helping the Afghani people.

February 14, 2008

Canada Command and U.S. Northern Command sign a joint Civil Assistance Plan that “allows the military from one nation to support the armed forces of the other nation... during floods, forest fires, hurricanes, earthquakes and effects of a terrorist attack.” The new agreement, which appears to complement the emergency preparedness component of the SPP North American Plan for Avian and Pandemic Influenza, is a project of the Bi-National Planning group, a joint Canada-U.S. military think tank that has recommended the two countries sign a “Comprehensive Defence and Security Agreement.”

DEEP INTEGRATION: A TIMELINE

February 26, 2008

The Harper Conservatives unveil their 2008 budget, which explicitly includes \$29 million in SPP funding, although the actual number is five times higher. Not included in that number is a further \$136 million for various SPP-linked security initiatives, such as higher-security electronic passports, an expanded NEXUS program at ports of entry, enhanced driver's licences, the introduction of biometric data into visas for foreign nationals and a permanent facility to "enhance the security of the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Seaway region." The Harper budget falls on the same day that U.S. Senators Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton tell Ohio democrats that they will withdraw from NAFTA if elected president unless the agreement can be altered to better protect workers and the environment. Canadian politicians scramble to defend the free-trade agreement in subsequent media statements.

February 27-28, 2008

Industry Minister Jim Prentice joins his U.S. and Mexican counterparts in Los Cabos, Mexico for the annual closed-doors pre-summit SPP ministerial meeting. After the meeting, which includes an intimate briefing with the CEOs of the North American Competitiveness Council, the three government representatives announce the agenda for the upcoming SPP summit in New Orleans: "Continue to implement the strategy to combat piracy and counterfeiting, and build on the Regulatory Cooperation Framework by pursuing collaboration through sectoral initiatives, with an emphasis on the automotive sector; Strengthen cooperation to better identify, assess and manage unsafe food and products before they enter North America, and collaborate to promote the compatibility of our related regulatory and inspection regimes; Develop projects under the newly signed Agreement on Science and Technology, and cooperate on moving new technologies to the marketplace, auto fuel efficiency and energy efficiency standards; Strengthen cooperation protocols and create new mechanisms to secure our common borders while facilitating legitimate travel and trade in the North American region, and; Strengthen emergency management cooperation capacity in the North American region before, during and after disasters."

March 5-6, 2008

Civil society, farmers and fair trade groups, as well as progressive legislators from Canada, the U.S. and Mexico, gather in Washington, D.C. to talk about NAFTA's real impacts on agriculture, labour, development and migration, and to explore NAFTA's evolution through the Security and Prosperity Partnership, and what can be done in the coming year to develop a strong tri-national movement for a more fair, just and equitable trading model on the continent. Following the conference portion on March 5, interested groups, including representatives from a grassroots network in New Orleans, spend the following day planning for the April 21-22 SPP summit.

March 19, 2008

U.S. Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez gives an "off-the-record debriefing" to America's corporate class on the Los Cabos ministerial meeting from February 27 to 28, 2008. According to a U.S. press release, the 1.5-hour meeting, which takes place in Washington, D.C., "will include members of the NACC Executive Committee and Advisory Committee and private sector representatives with a stake in the process."

April 21-22, 2008

Fourth annual meeting of North American leaders and CEOs to discuss progress to, and new initiatives for, the Security and Prosperity Partnership.