

concept of free trade—but trade ironically might now be freer in addition to more secure.

The Smart Border has been called the “border for the future” and a “model for the world.”⁸⁶

While it is too soon to measure the impact of a possible new secure trade regime, an examination has been undertaken above to establish whether or not something new was on the horizon—a new global economic order in the form of secure trade. How would officials answer the question? Historians and political scientists? Economists? Those on the front lines—the customs broker, the trucker, the patrolman? Those living in border communities? Arbiters of ethics? All say yes.

While this paper focused on the North American dimension of trade and security—there are repercussions for the world. Indeed, this problem goes beyond hemispheric—as George Haynal of the Canadian Council of Chief Executives in Ottawa recently stressed, “We have got a global problem on our hands.” In a post September 11th context, Canada-U.S. security and trade “is everybody’s business.”⁸⁷ The American perimeter is moving outwards from U.S. national boundaries to foreign points of departure and most countries—not just the U.S. and Canada—are becoming more stringent in verifying the security of supply chains. A new secure trade regime, for example, was formed in the APEC region: the Secure Trade in the APEC Region (STAR), agreed to at the 2002 APEC Economic Leaders’ Meeting in Los Cabos. We see agendas once devoted to economics focusing more and more on security concerns, as we seen at the G-8 Summit in Kananaskis in June, 2002.

A new era for trade has begun.

⁸⁶ Tom Ridge, Press Release, June 2002.

⁸⁷ George Haynal, Senior Vice President, Canadian Council of Chief Executives, interview by author, CCCE Headquarters, Ottawa, Ontario, January 28th, 2003.