

eco-systems, recognizing that the environment is a key element of our common agenda.

The *Boundary Waters Treaty* of 1909 is a model for the world for addressing transboundary water issues. The International Joint Commission, which was created by the *Boundary Waters Treaty*, regulates water levels and flows, monitors water and air pollution, and helps prevent and resolve disputes.

The border is also defined by the people of both countries who live along it. These border-area residents usually feel a strong kinship to their neighbours to the north or south, a sense of community forged through daily interaction. To these communities, the border is often an impediment to their daily activities, an inconvenience that they would like to see go away. Many of these people cross the border each day to work, shop and visit friends and relatives. For them, and for many businesses that now depend upon just-in-time cross-border deliveries on a daily basis, backups at the border mean more than an occasional delay in vacation travel. They mean countless hours spent in border-crossing lines over the years and significant costs.

Our connections extend well beyond the border, reaching into the heartland of both our countries. Various North-South economic regions straddle the border. Thirty-seven U.S. states have Canada as their primary trading partner; half of U.S. exports to Canada are produced in fourteen states that are not on the border, including California and Texas. State, provincial and municipal authorities are forming North-South corridor regions to improve trade, market tourism, promote foreign investment and exchange best practices. For example, under the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER), provincial and state governments have been cooperating on the creation