

Framework lists Canada-US and Canada-Mexico relations as among top Departmental priorities over the next three years. The 2002 *Speech from the Throne* emphasized that, working together, Canadians must secure our place in North America and in the world as a mature country, confident in who we are and where we are headed. The nation-wide *Dialogue on Foreign Policy*, launched by the Minister of Foreign Affairs in January 2003, is engaging Canadians on Canada's foreign policy directions, including those with respect to the North American space.

CANADA'S STRATEGY FOR NORTH AMERICA

Implementing Canada's strategy requires the input and participation of a wide range of Canadian stakeholders, including provincial, territorial and municipal governments, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, and civil society. The Government remains committed to engaging all Canadians towards the following:

I *ADVANCING CANADIAN INTERESTS WITH THE UNITED STATES*

Increasing trade and investment flows with our largest trading partner. The Government is helping Canadian business to break into the US market, in particular focussing on women, young entrepreneurs and Aboriginal exporters. Since 1984, the New Exporters to Border States program has helped 14,400 companies in this regard. Over the past two years, Team Canada Atlantic missions to New York, Atlanta and Boston have generated business for Canadian companies, and the November 2001 Team Canada West Mission to Dallas and Los Angeles, led by the Prime Minister, provincial and territorial leaders signalled a new inter-governmental partnership in export and investment promotion. In close cooperation with provincial agencies, Investment Partnership Canada is working to retain and increase existing US investment in Canada and to attract new capital and new technologies. Under our agenda for Smart Regulation, the Government is currently considering ways in which to broaden and deepen regulatory cooperation with the US to further reduce hurdles for Canadian businesses.

Defending Canada's market access. In cooperation with industry stakeholders, and the provinces and territories, the Government is working to resolve existing bilateral trade disputes, including softwood lumber and wheat, through NAFTA and World Trade Organization (WTO) dispute settlement mechanisms, and by influencing key decision-makers through targeted advocacy initiatives.

Building a secure and efficient Canada-US border. Canada and the US are working closely towards the successful implementation of the December 2001 Smart Border 30-Point Action Plan, and have intensified cooperation among our immigration, customs, transportation, and law enforcement agencies. In cooperation with industry stakeholders,

