

Executives, on “reinventing” the borders and forging a new Canada-U.S. partnership by eradicating as many of the barriers to the movement of people and goods across the countries’ internal borders as possible, and by shifting attention to the protection of approaches to Canada-U.S. from other countries. His ideas made headlines:

“Canadians must take the lead as we did two decades ago, when we stood at yet another critical crossroad. At the time, the crisis was not global terrorism. It was trade protectionism. We opted for a bold new vision—the Canada-United States Free Trade Agreement. On this choice, history has offered decisive proof. Canada and the United States made the right decision. We must make the right decision again.”³⁶

- The Coalition for Secure and Trade-Efficient Borders, composed of 45 Canadian business associations and individual companies, was formed to assist the federal government, through dialogue and cooperation with industry, in dealing with the trade and security border issues. The aims of the Coalition are to recommend measures that facilitate the passage of low-risk goods and people across Canada’s borders; strengthen Canadian security, immigration and border management; and increase cooperation between Canada and the U.S. and other countries to prevent the entry of terrorists, illegal immigrants, contraband and illegal goods into the two countries.³⁷

³⁶ Thomas D’Aquino, “Security and Prosperity: The Dynamics of a New Canada-United States Partnership in North America,” Presentation to the Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Council of Chief Executives (January 14th, 2003), Toronto, Notes.

³⁷ Coalition for Secure and Trade Efficient Borders, *Rethinking our Borders: A Plan for Action* (December 3rd, 2001), ii. The Coalition is led by the heads of the four major horizontal business associations in Canada – the Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, the Business Council on National Issues and the Canadian Federation of Independent Business. (This report, and its predecessor, *Rethinking Our Borders: A Plan for Action*, available at <http://www.cme-mec.ca/coalition/>).