

# **Prairie and North Dakota Chambers of Commerce United on Importance of Trade Between Canada and United States**

## *Chamber Executives Urge Lawmakers to Finalize New Trade Deal*

Chambers of Commerce in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and North Dakota are in agreement that the trade relationship between Canada and the United States is critical to our businesses and industry sectors.

### Importance of Canada / United States Trade

- No two nations depend more on each other for their mutual prosperity and security than the United States and Canada.
- The U.S.-Canada trade relationship is a model for the world: it is growing, it is balanced, it is equitable, and it supports growth, innovation and good-paying jobs in both countries.
- Millions of good, middle-class jobs on both sides of the border depend on our partnership. In the United States alone, nearly 9 million jobs are linked to Canadian trade and investment. Trade is responsible for 28,500 jobs in North Dakota
- Canada is the #1 market for most U.S. states and is among the top three customers for the majority of them.
- Manitoba imports close to \$1 billion of goods from North Dakota, while Saskatchewan imports more than \$1.5 billion.
- Trade exports to North Dakota are valued at nearly \$500 million from Manitoba and just over \$510 million from Saskatchewan.

The current trade dispute between Canada and the United States resulting in tariffs on trade products has resulted in an uncertain business climate that negatively impacts businesses on both sides of the border that rely on domestic and global trade.

Following a meeting on July 9, 2018, in Bismarck, ND, chambers from Manitoba, Saskatchewan, North Dakota, and regional state chambers are united and committed to taking the following steps:

- Advocate our respective state, provincial, and federal legislators about the importance of trade between our two countries and to work in the best interest of business;
- Encourage our respective federal legislators to, as soon as possible, reconvene negotiations with the goal of a timely quick resolution of a newly revised NAFTA that is in the best interest of all countries; and
- Meet annually to discuss emerging business issues impacting our members and communities.



Chuck Davidson  
President & CEO  
Manitoba Chambers of  
Commerce



L. John MacMartin  
President  
Minot Area Chamber of  
Commerce



Steve McClellan  
President & CEO  
Saskatchewan Chamber of  
Commerce



Barry Wilfahrt  
President & CEO  
Grand Forks & East Grand Forks  
Chamber of Commerce



Arik Spencer  
President & CEO  
Greater North Dakota Chamber  
of Commerce



Brian Ritter  
President  
Bismarck-Mandan Chamber of  
Commerce

