



NORTH AMERICAN FORUM 2009 NEWS RELEASE

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***TRILATERAL COOPERATION WILL SPEED RETURN
TO STRONG AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH,
NORTH AMERICAN FORUM PARTICIPANTS AGREE***

Leaders from business, government and academia today wrapped up three days of discussions in Ottawa, Canada, aimed at fostering improved relations and increased cooperation among the people and governments of North America.

This year's meeting of the North American Forum focused on the need for Canada, Mexico and the United States to work together in responding to the global economic crisis and promoting a quick return to strong and sustainable growth. In addition, the Forum included special sessions on two critical issues: one on energy and the environment, and the other on transnational crime, arms smuggling and drug trafficking.

The North American Forum is a community of Canadian, Mexican and American thought leaders whose purpose is to advance a shared vision of North America, and to contribute to improved relations among the three countries. They come together annually to explore linkages among the mutually reinforcing goals of security, prosperity and enhanced quality of life.

Presiding over the Forum are three Co-Chairs: former United States Secretary of State George P. Shultz, former Mexican Finance Minister Pedro Aspe, and former Alberta Premier Peter Lougheed. A core group of participants from Mexico, Canada and the United States attends each year, along with experts chosen for their ability to contribute to that year's agenda. Senior representatives of the three governments are also among those invited.

While tri-national in scope and design, the agenda each year is shaped by representatives from the organizing country. The World Affairs Council of Northern California has served as the Secretariat for the North American Forum since the inaugural meeting in October 2005. Subsequent meetings have rotated among the three countries.

The Fifth Annual North American Forum took place at the Fairmont Chateau Laurier Hotel in Ottawa from October 4 to 6, 2009. Previous meetings of the Forum have been held in Sonoma, California (2005), Banff, Alberta (2006), Nuevo Vallarta, Mexico (2007), and Washington, D.C. (2008).

The Fifth Annual North American Forum was sponsored by Bombardier Inc., TransAlta Corporation and TransCanada Corporation – three flagship Canadian companies that continue to demonstrate leadership and entrepreneurial success in the North American region – as well as the Canadian Council of Chief Executives, which as Canada’s most influential business organization has been at the forefront of every major initiative of the past three decades aimed at strengthening economic ties within North America. The Chair of the organizing committee for this year’s Forum is Thomas d’Aquino, Chief Executive and President of the Canadian Council of Chief Executives.

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