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IMPROVE REGULATORY EFFICIENCY, ACHIEVE REGULATORY ALIGNMENT AND ENSURE THE UNRESTRICTED MOVEMENT OF GOODS AND PEOPLE ACROSS CANADA

Out-of-date, inconsistent, poorly designed and unnecessary regulatory compliance requirements pose onerous costs on business, restrict choices for consumers and limit employment opportunities for workers.

Inefficient regulations also impede our ability to achieve the social, environmental, economic and security objectives that are important for Canadians.

Regulatory misalignment, between the provinces and territories and between the provincial, territorial and federal governments, permeates nearly all aspects of how business is conducted in Canada. Differing, duplicative and overlapping regulations, the inconsistent application of rules and varying reporting and compliance

processes mean many business people spend an inordinate amount of time navigating and managing the complexity of regulations instead of focusing on business growth. The elimination of trade barriers and unnecessary regulatory differences across Canada could add as much as \$130 billion to Canada's GDP by freeing trade and commerce within our own internal market.

In 2017, Canada's federal, provincial and territorial governments signed a new Canada Free Trade Agreement (CFTA), with the objective of further reducing barriers to internal trade. The agreement includes a new Regulatory Reconciliation and Cooperation Table (RRCT) for provinces and territories to work together to align their regulations. The new agreement presents an historic opportunity for Canadian business and for our governments to finally create a single Canadian market. But, progress will depend on the adoption of best

practices in regulatory management by governments across Canada. Regulatory alignment requires governments across the country to adopt more standardized, efficient and effective approaches to consultation, the design, development and assessment of regulations and their compliance requirements, risk assessment and enforcement procedures.

In 2018, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce will work with federal, provincial and territorial governments to identify the regulatory differences that impede domestic commerce and develop constructive solutions to managing regulations affecting interprovincial trade, including:

- The development of standards and guidelines for improving regulatory management and alignment across all levels of government;
- The development of nationally aligned standards;
- Processes for mutual recognition for standards and regulations; and,

- Incentives for regulators to improve management processes and take the economic and business impacts of their decisions into account.

We will focus on two problematic areas—transportation and the environment—where greater regulatory alignment would have significant positive impacts on interprovincial trade and investment and the growth potential of Canadian business. We will take a leading role in defining best-in-class regulatory management practices within Canada and in other jurisdictions. And, we will recognize and celebrate progress in improving regulatory management.



THE ELIMINATION OF TRADE BARRIERS AND UNNECESSARY REGULATORY DIFFERENCES ACROSS CANADA COULD ADD AS MUCH AS \$130 BILLION TO CANADA'S GDP BY FREEING TRADE AND COMMERCE WITHIN OUR OWN INTERNAL MARKET."

