



NORTH AMERICA'S SUPERCORRIDOR COALITION, INC.

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NASCO Conference Inspires in Quebec City

QUEBEC CITY, QUEBEC - More than 450 leaders in trade and transportation attended the annual NASCO Conference 2009 June 2-4 in this historic provincial capital city of member host Province of Quebec.

Leading figures in industry and government in North America outlined audacious, inspiring, but real-world visions to resolve the extraordinary challenges facing the transportation infrastructure of North America with leading edge technology applications and best practices in business, trade and public policies.

The conference opened with special addresses by former ambassadors of the U.S. and Canada to each nation and a parallel Leaders Summit hosted by Quebec Premier Jean Charest, the one-time, youngest-ever Federal Cabinet minister in Canada history now the dynamic leader of Quebec Province.

The fifth annual NASCO Conference entitled "Moving North America Forward, " as expected, overcame dire economic times and a swine flu pandemic to attract more than 450 members and supporters to the popular annual event from every corner of North America.

NASCO is a tri-national nonprofit dedicated to shepherding advances through public and private sector cooperation to produce the continent's leading multi-modal corridor transportation system through the heart of the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

Opening day highlights included keynote addresses by Gordon D. Giffin, an attorney and former U.S. Ambassador to Canada under President Clinton, and Michael Kergin, former Canadian Ambassador to the U.S. and an international law attorney.

The parallel Leader's Summit hosted by Premier Charest included U.S. state governors Chet Culver of Iowa and James Douglas of Vermont; Mexican state governors Jose Natividad Gonzalez Paras of Nuevo Leon, Juan Manuel Oliva Ramirez of Guanajuato, Amalia Garcia Medina of Zacatecas, and Jorge Reynoso Martinez, Secretary of Economic Development for Durango. Canada province Premiers Gary Doer of Manitoba and Shawn Graham of New Brunswick joined with Shawn Skinner, Trade Minister of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Worldwide news media carried Charest's post-summit remarks at the NASCO Conference that "Canada, the United States and Mexico should adopt a common position on greenhouse gases," reading from a joint declaration calling for a common NAFTA position on carbon emissions he said would be delivered to the chief executives of the three nations of North America.

"This is something that would be difficult to obtain, a consensus," Charest told attendees. "But we need to start now to talk about what will be doable solutions with real impact on the reduction of greenhouse gases."

NASCO's partner, the Commission for Environmental Cooperation of North America, the Montreal-based research institute created in 1993 in the Side Agreement on the Environment to the NAFTA Accord, held two key sidebar events to the NASCO Conference in Quebec City. The CEC held its second tri-national Compliance Assurance Workshop in conjunction with a NASCO event, and a meeting of the Advisory Committee on the CEC Baseline Study of Freight Transportation Impact on Emissions on the key Trade Corridors of North America due in June 2010.

Officials with NASCO Canada member provinces of Manitoba, Quebec, Ontario and Saskatchewan and the Port Alberta inland port project of that province took part in the NASCO Conference along with more than eight states of Mexico and public and private sector representatives from along the U.S. heartland NASCO Corridor.

Des Moines, Iowa Mayor Frank Cownie and Iowa state Economic Development Director Michael Tramontina formally invited guests at the conference closing luncheon to attend the 2010 NASCO Conference to be hosted by Des Moines, Polk County, and the state. Des Moines, Polk County that surrounds it, Des Moines International Airport and the state of Iowa sponsored the final luncheon in Quebec City, offering attendees a great taste of the gourmet food and world-class hospitality Iowa has in store for NASCO members from June 15-to-17 in 2010.

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