

PRESS RELEASE – TRANSPORTATION MINISTERS TAKE ACTION ON TRUCKING REGULATIONS TO IMPROVE INTERNAL TRADE AND COMMIT TO ONGOING COLLABORATION ON RAIL SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

MONTREAL, Quebec – Federal, provincial and territorial Ministers of Transportation and Highway Safety today approved actions to change regulations for commercial heavy trucks that will support the trucking industry and economic competitiveness.

Ministers approved three recommendations by the National Task Force on Vehicle Weights and Dimensions Policy. These amendments are in line with the renewal of the *Agreement on Internal Trade* that [Canada's Premiers](#) agreed to on August 29, 2014, and will contribute to trade across Canada's borders. As this important initiative proceeds, ongoing work by the Task Force stands as a positive example of what collaboration can achieve.

Ministers also endorsed updates to the *National Safety Code* (NSC), which sets out inspection criteria for trucks, trailers and buses, to be implemented by each government. More information about these changes can be found [here](#).

These measures will support the safe and efficient movement of goods by improving fuel efficiency; reducing GHG emissions and providing greater flexibility for shippers travelling across provincial and territorial boundaries.

Federal Minister of Transport Lisa Raitt provided an update on recent rail safety improvements and stated that the department continues to work with its partners, all provincial and territorial governments, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, international partners, and others to continually improve the safety of Canada's railway system.

"The federal, provincial and territorial governments continue to take action to ensure that Canadian transportation routes are among the safest in the world, through a commitment to an effective, harmonized approach to regulation," said Minister Raitt. "In addition, our government has taken action to improve rail safety and the safe transportation of dangerous goods by rail, and will continue to work with partners to ensure the integrity of our rail system."

"Rail plays a crucial role in moving goods and people from coast to coast and, in this respect, we must address the concerns of municipalities" stated Québec Minister of Transport Robert Poëti. "The safety of our rail networks is, and will continue to be, a priority."

Recognizing the important contribution of transportation infrastructure to economic growth and quality of life, Ministers discussed steps to implement their [Vision](#) for transportation in Canada, established in 2013, and reaffirmed their commitment to working together.

Collaboration among governments is critical to building safe and efficient transportation networks that support our communities and grow our local, regional and national economies.

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Backgrounders:

National Task Force on Vehicle Weights and Dimensions Policy
National Safety Code Updates
Rail Safety Updates