



Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC)
Comité Consultivo Público Conjunto (CCPC)
Comité consultatif public mixte (CCPM)

August 29, 2005

Stéphane Dion
Minister of Environment, Canada

José Luis Luege Tamargo
Secretary for Environment and Natural Resources, Mexico

Stephen L. Johnson
Administrator of the US Environmental Protection Agency

Dear Council members:

I am writing on behalf of the Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) to follow up on the June Council session. We understand the very unusual set of circumstances that coincided with this session and resulted in missing the opportunity for us to have our annual private session with you, and for you to hold your annual session with the public.

Looking forward into the coming year and onwards, JPAC remains committed to working with you to continually improve the effectiveness of the CEC. To this end, during our June meeting with your Alternate Representatives, we requested a meeting in the near future with the JPAC members appointed from each country and their country's Council member in order to maintain our collective momentum during this important year of transition. We are now working with your officials to organize these meetings.

During these in-country meetings, JPAC would like to begin a dialogue with you on what we can accomplish together between now and the next Council session and beyond. In particular, we would like to exchange ideas and perspectives on the following:

- How we can work together to continually improve public participation and transparency in decision-making.
- How to improve effectiveness of the annual Council sessions, particularly with regards to public participation.
- Information and exchange on JPAC's intention to develop its own strategic plan in the context of the CEC's new direction.
- Opportunities for collaboration with the CEC provided by the Security and Prosperity Partnership.
- How best to communicate the content and results of our exchanges to the public.

May I also take this opportunity to welcome the recently appointed Mexican Secretary for Environment and Natural Resources, and we look forward to a productive year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jane Gardner", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jane Gardner
JPAC Chair for 2005

c.c.: CEC Alternate Representatives
CEC Executive Director
JPAC Members