

PNWER NAFTA TASK FORCE

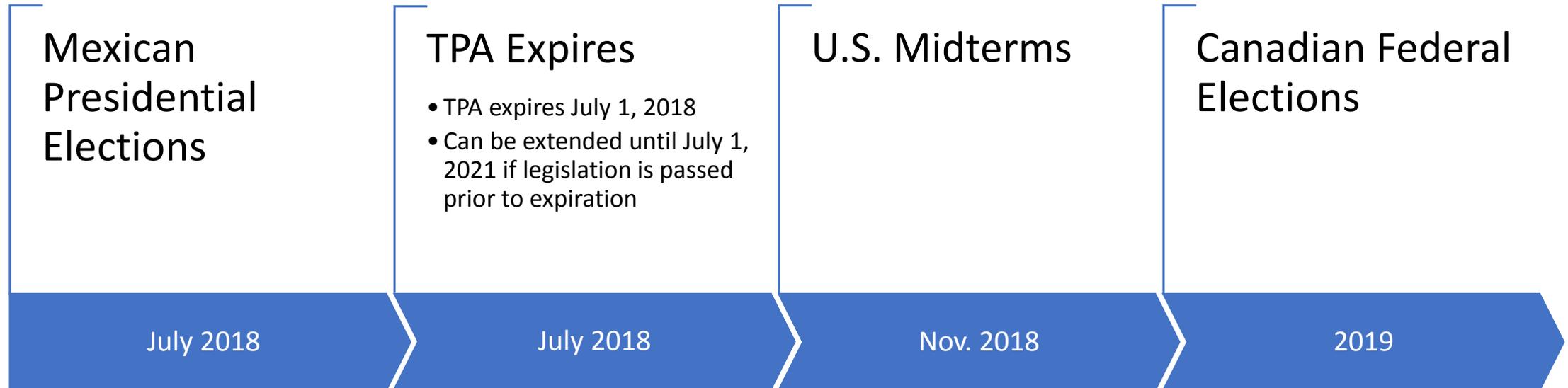


*Pacific NorthWest
Economic Region*

NAFTA Timeline

- Trade Promotion Authority 2015 (TPA 2015)
 - Also known as “fast track” authority
 - Governs U.S. NAFTA renegotiation process
 - Passed during Obama administration
 - Allows for Congress to play heavy role in consultation process and in setting objectives. Congress will be involved in every step of the process.
 - Under TPA 2015, Congress will play most significant consultation role ever in free trade agreement
 - Rep. Dave Reichert (WA - R) is chair of Ways and Means Trade subcommittee and plays key role in Congressional consultation process
- July 17, 2017 – United States Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer releases “Summary of Objectives for the NAFTA Renegotiation”. Includes over 100 priorities.
- August 14, 2017 – Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland reveals list of Canada’s 10 key NAFTA demands
- August 16-20, 2017 – First round of NAFTA talks between U.S., Canada, and Mexico to take place in Washington, D.C. Additional meetings approx. every 3 weeks, alternating locale

Important Dates to Consider in NAFTA Renegotiation



PNWER NAFTA Modernization Taskforce

- November 2016 • PNWER establishes NAFTA Modernization Taskforce
 - Created out of PNWER 2016 Winter Meeting
 - Includes representatives from each of PNWER's 10 U.S. and Canadian jurisdictions, and members of private sector
 - Created with intent of developing a bi-regional consensus of recommendations for updating NAFTA.
- May 2017 • PNWER creates survey to gather feedback from industries and organizations on overarching principles to be included in modernized NAFTA
- June-July 2017 • PNWER submits results of survey to U.S. and Canadian federal governments to advocate on behalf of regional stakeholders
- May-June 2017 • PNWER travels to D.C. and Ottawa to testify before Office of USTR and Parliamentary Standing Committee on International Trade on NAFTA, and meets with Rep. Dave Reichert and other key Congressional staffers

PNWER Top 10 Recommendations for NAFTA Modernization

- 1. Include Advancements from other Free Trade Agreements:** As a starting point, examine previously agreed upon advances from modern trade agreements like the TPP.
- 2. Cross-Border Trade Facilitation:** Include 'modern' processes for cross-border customs (methods to streamline and simplify clearance, declaration, documentation, facilitation, etc.). Simple clearance, declaration and origin rules will facilitate that process. Harmonizing and aligning standards before products reach the border to increase efficient trading. This includes preclearance for goods and livestock. – **Addressed on USTR 'Summary of NAFTA Objectives' page 5**
- 3. Digital Trade and E-Commerce:** NAFTA should be modernized to provide a framework to promote and govern digital trade, e-commerce, services- including financial services, logistics, and information and communication technology. – **USTR Objectives page 8**
- 4. Energy and Infrastructure:** Support further integration of North American energy markets and the infrastructure needed to connect them. – **USTR Objectives page 16**
- 5. Intellectual Property:** Increase protection of intellectual property – **USTR Objectives page 9**
- 6. Regulatory Cooperation:** Encourage permanent adoption and expansion of the Regulatory Cooperation Council to align product standards, testing, and certification. – **USTR Objectives page 7**
- 7. Express Delivery:** Include modern provisions to facilitate cross-border express delivery for small shipments; harmonize de minimis thresholds for expedited shipments. – **USTR Objectives page 9**
- 8. Labor Mobility:** Update NAFTA labor categories to reflect modern classifications and expand common standards for professions and mutual recognition of skills credentials. – **Addressed by Minister Chrystia Freeland as Canadian priority**
- 9. Procurement:** Include exemption for Canadian content in 'Buy American' procurement, as it currently is in the defense sector. – **Canadian priority**
- 10. Dispute Settlement:** Establish clearer and more effective mechanisms for resolving trade disputes. – **U.S. and Canada**

Key NAFTA Action Items from PNWER 2017 Annual Summit

Working Group	NAFTA Related Action Item
Agriculture	Representatives from agriculture sectors of the Pacific North West Economic Region (PNWER), in both the United States (U.S.) and Canada, recognize the importance of trade and the benefits currently realized under the North American Free Trade Agreement. Members of the PNWER Agriculture Working Group urge both the U.S. and Canadian federal governments to proceed quickly with modernizing NAFTA and commit to do no harm to the integrated North American agriculture industries.
Agriculture	Members of PNWER urge leaders in both the U.S. and Canada to push for science based regulation in the agriculture sector and continue to advance regulatory alignment and cooperation. It is important for the U.S. and Canada to work together and take a leadership role internationally on these issues to ensure that plant and animal health restrictions are based on fact, not feeling. These issues include maximum residue levels, low level presence policies and the advancement of science based standards, guidelines and codes of practice adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the OIE World Organization for Animal Health.
Border and Trade	The Border working group will continue to explore ways to improve cross-border flows. This includes utilizing the PNWER preclearance task force to focus on implementation of preclearance across the region by coordinating with CBP and CBSA and regional carriers.
Border and Trade	The Border working group will engage with stakeholders to highlight the progress made under Beyond the Border & heighten awareness of the importance of developing the next guiding framework for policy action on the border. PNWER encourages both countries to recommit to a focus on regulatory cooperation and the principles of the Beyond the Border and Perimeter Security Declaration
Border and Trade	The work of the PNWER NAFTA Modernization Task force should include a focus/engage stakeholders on how changing trade policy may impact agriculture and rural areas.
Border and Trade	PNWER encourages stakeholders to reach out to policy makers and industry in the U.S. on a district by district basis to promote the importance of Canadian trade, using the resource tool developed by the Business Council of Canada.
Border and Trade/Tourism	Joint Action Item with Tourism: Seek funding to develop a digital resource guide for cross-border travel which will include an explanation of entry requirements, how they vary by mode of entry, customs requirements, etc.
Workforce	Encourage the NAFTA Modernization Task Force to ensure that labour mobility provisions for professions and trades are included; and that Core labour standards are addressed in NAFTA including migrant workers/contract laborers

If you would like to receive PNWER's NAFTA newsletter with updates on the NAFTA renegotiation, please email nafta@pnwer.org.

For more information on the PNWER NAFTA Taskforce, please visit www.pnwer.org



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