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# Introduction: How Do Canadian Provinces and U.S. States View the Importance of Their Relationship with Their Cross-Border Counterparts

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INTRODUCTION: HOW DO CANADIAN PROVINCES AND  
U.S. STATES VIEW  
THE IMPORTANCE OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH THEIR  
CROSS-BORDER COUNTERPARTS?

*Richard Brait\**

Thank you. I am Mr. Brait, from Nortel Networks, general counsel of the Optical Components Group. We have a great panel tonight, Mr. Sisto and Mr. Peterson. The topic is the relationship between provinces and states that adjoin each other and the importance of that relationship.

We will be starting off with Mr. Sisto. Mr. Sisto is with Squire, Sanders in Columbus, Ohio. He has an impressive background in international trade matters, most notably, as Deputy Director of the Department of Development, where he is responsible for the International Trade Division and the ten offices that division has around the world. Mr. Sisto was also active with the Council of Great Lakes Governors, which dealt with trade and investment issues between those eight states and Canada. On the academic side he has also been an adjunct professor at the Capitol University Law School and at Ohio State.

Mr. Peterson served as premier of Ontario from 1985 to 1990 and is currently a partner and chairman of the Toronto law firm of Cassels, Brock & Blackwell.

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