

2015-J3550

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim February 2, 2016, as Canada-Quebec-Ontario Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, Canada is New York's primary export market, with \$34.2 billion worth of merchandise goods exchanged and 17 percent of New York's world-wide exports sold to Canada in 2014; in addition, 680,900 New York jobs are supported by Canada-U.S. trade; and

WHEREAS, New York and Canada share an international border measuring 445 miles in length with 17 international border crossings, featuring several important international trade corridors including the Quebec-New York Corridor, the Capitol Corridor, and Continental One, as well as the second-busiest crossing between Canada and the United States at the Peace Bridge; and

WHEREAS, The New York-Canada partnership boasts the largest bilateral tourism industry in the United States with over 6.9 million Canadians visiting New York, accounting for over \$1.7 billion in expenditures in 2012; and

WHEREAS, Reflective of this strong security relationship, the Eastern Air Defense Sector, headquartered in Rome, New York, is staffed by active-duty New York Air National Guardsmen and a Canadian Forces Detachment; this unit supports NORAD's integrated warning and attach assessment mission and the U.S. Northern Command's homeland defense mission; and

WHEREAS, Over 19 million New Yorkers depend on Canada and its vast energy reserves to fuel our State, importing over \$4.7 billion worth of energy from Canada in 2014; and

WHEREAS, Quebec more specifically has been an important supplier of clean, renewable energy to New York for decades; and

WHEREAS, New York is the primary international market for Quebec, with the total value of bilateral trade amounting to \$7.4 billion in 2014; and exports to New York represent 11.5 percent of Quebec's U.S.-bound exports, with an emphasis on unwrought aluminum, petroleum products, refined copper and hydro-electricity; and

WHEREAS, Quebec established its first office abroad in 1940 in New York City, and has maintained this important commercial, investment, educational and cultural link to New York and neighboring states for 75 years; and

WHEREAS, Financial ties between Quebec and New York go back almost a century and a half, when Quebec became the first foreign issuer of bonds on Wall Street in 1879; and

WHEREAS, Ontario and New York are closely linked geographically, both bordering on Lake Erie and Lake Ontario and having border crossing points in the Niagara and St. Lawrence regions; and the jurisdictions have in common a significant number of economic, social, environmental, educational and cultural interests and connections; and

WHEREAS, More than sixty-three percent of Canada's total bilateral trade with New York (over \$24 billion) was between Ontario and New York, with Ontario's primary exports to New York including unwrought gold and silver, engines, autos and electrical energy, and Ontario's primary imports from New York including petroleum gases, metals, motor vehicle parts and engines; and

WHEREAS, The economies of Ontario and New York are tightly linked through integrated cross-border supply chains that keeps our firms competitive, including, for example, auto parts that cross the border sometimes several times before completion; and

WHEREAS, Canada - and in particular its provinces of Quebec and Ontario - and New York share many more deep economic, historical, cultural and familial ties as well; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to

memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim February 2, 2016 as Canada-Quebec-Ontario Day in the State of New York; and be it further RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York; the Consulate General of Canada in New York; the Quebec Government Office in New York; and the Office of the Ontario Government Representative in Washington, D.C.