

## Canadian stimulus helped America too: Ed Clark



Matthew Sherwood for National Post

Ed Clark, president and CEO of TD Bank Group, speaks at the Canadian American Business Council's 17th annual Policy Forum at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre on Tuesday.

[John Greenwood](#) Nov 15, 2011 – 2:40 PM ET | **Last Updated: Nov 16, 2011 10:43 AM ET**

Billions of dollars of stimulus funds doled out by Ottawa over the past three years not only ensured Canada didn't slip into recession, it also helped prop up the U.S. economy — something Washington should recognize as it considers protectionist measures aimed at its largest trading partner, the chief executive of Toronto-Dominion Bank said Tuesday.

“Our federal government made a deliberate shift in fiscal policy, as part of our response to mitigate the recession's impact on the global economy,” Ed Clark said in an address to business

leaders in Toronto on Tuesday. “So much so that we saw our surplus of \$14 billion transform into a deficit of \$56 billion.

“This stimulus resulted in playing a critical role in growing U.S. exports – a key job generator for Americans.”

But that’s something U.S. policymakers fail to acknowledge.

Buffeted by sky-high unemployment and a stagnant economy, Americans are increasingly favouring policies designed “to protect their own turf,” Mr. Clark said.

Canadians understand the factors at play, but at the same time the U.S. needs to realize that protectionist laws undermine economic growth and wealth creation.

That was “a lesson learned from the Great Depression,” he said.

Mr. Clark made the comments at the Canadian American Business Council Luncheon.

The U.S. faces enormous economic challenges today. On the heels of a punishing recession at home, the world’s biggest economy is being buffeted by the ongoing sovereign debt crisis in Europe and a weakening Chinese economy.

“Canada is in relatively better shape than the United States,” he said. “But we know how important the U.S. economy is to our well-being.”

Mr. Clark said he is “confident” that America could easily pull through if it was only dealing with domestic problems. But right now the challenges are global so the path to resolution is far from clear.

Canada and the U.S. must recognize their fundamental importance to one another and they must not let their relationship get downgraded by cross-border wrangling.

“Given the enormity of our global woes, there’s a real risk these issues are overlooked or under appreciated by leaders at the highest level,” he warned.

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# TD Bank CEO Urges Canada, U.S. To Act Like One Big Neighborhood

--TD CEO urges Canada-U.S. to build on trade momentum

--Says U.S., Canada should act as one big neighborhood

--Says protectionist sentiment undermines economic growth

By Caroline Van Hasselt Of DOW JONES NEWSWIRES

TORONTO (Dow Jones)--Rising protectionist sentiment in the U.S. undermines economic opportunity and wealth creation, Toronto-Dominion Bank (TD) Chief Executive Edmund Clark said Tuesday.

"Canada and the United States are better off to act as one big neighborhood than two gated communities," he said. "We enjoy the largest commercial relationship in the world, generating \$1.6 billion in cross-border activity every single day."

Canada is the biggest single market for the U.S., Clark said.

The executive was speaking at the Canadian-American Business Council's 17th annual policy forum in Toronto.

He said the Canadian government, through its stimulus measures in the recession, played a "critical role" in growing U.S. exports, a key job generator for Americans. Since the recession, Canadian demand for U.S. goods outpaced U.S. demand for Canadian goods, while the value of U.S. exports has grown faster in Canada than any other of America's trading partners, Clark said.

He urged the two countries "to build on that momentum."

The Canada-U.S. relationship requires "constant attention" and "continued statements of renewed sponsorship," he said.

Clark also said "a whole set of cross-border issues are unsettling our relationship" and warned that there's a real risk of these issues being "overlooked or underappreciated by leaders at the highest level" because of the enormity of global economic woes.

"Who will stand up for this relationship?," he asked. The relationship has "made a huge difference in our standard of living and quality of life. Our future prosperity very much relies on it."

Clark also said the fiscal challenges faced by the U.S. are compounded by the uncertainty over how Washington will deal with its mounting debt loads.

"The political debates have been polarizing, and have only added to the current economic malaise," he said.

Clark's confident that if the U.S. only had to deal with its own challenges, its "entrepreneurial spirit would quickly get the country back on track again." But, unfortunately, the euro-zone debt crisis and stresses in China's economy have led the U.S. to protect its own turf, he said.

Toronto-based TD is the second-largest Canadian bank by assets behind Royal Bank of Canada (RY), and the sixth-largest bank in the U.S.

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# Canada's copyright laws lag and media industries will suffer, execs say

Posted on [Wed, Nov 16, 2011, 7:08 am](#) by [David George-Cosh](#)



TORONTO — Continued uncertainty behind Canada's copyright laws has placed the country in the unenviable position of being a laggard in the digital space, a position from which it may be difficult to recover, media executives say.

An outdated tariff system and failure to enforce rampant piracy has created a “very challenging” business environment that has done more to detract innovation and investment in Canada's digital market, said Chris Castle, a partner with Christian L Castle Attorneys in Los Angeles.

“There is a lack of harmonization of copyright laws between Canada and the U.S.,” Castle said on the sidelines of the Canadian American Business Council annual policy forum in Toronto, Tuesday.

“It has created a situation where a website such as [Vancouver-based bit torrent site] isoHunt: how can it be adjudicated in the U.S. while it is allowed to operate in Canada.”

Unless action is undertaken to enforce and mitigate copyright infringement, the Canadian media market will shrink, said Castle.

“In the U.S., we can take a hit from piracy and still manage to function. In Canada, because the music market is small to begin with, and it's even smaller with piracy. When you get [digital] services and you try to get them to operate it here, people won't consider the Canadian market.”

Since 2005, the Canadian government has made four attempts to amend the Copyright Act in the House of Commons. Bills C-60, C-61 and C-32 were all introduced in Parliament with varying

degrees of regulation and enforcement. Only Bill C-11 is currently being tabled in the House of Commons.

The legislation, which has yet to be voted into law, resembles its predecessor and notably would criminalize the act of breaking digital locks on content.

Any further amendments to copyright legislation would likely not take any cues from the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Copyright Treaty, an international copyright legislation that was adopted in 1996 and instead be treated multilaterally as a trade issue, said Jay Kerr-Wilson, a partner with Fasken Martineau.

“There was a great frustration with the process at WIPO,” Kerr-Wilson said. “It’s consensus driven and over the past 10 years, there hasn’t been much consensus. There’s a palpable divide amongst member states as to what standards should look like.”

Enacting suitable legislation that would enforce digital rights management (DRM) in online content is paramount to maintaining a sustainable media industry, said Darlene Gilliland, the vice president of business development and corporate affairs at Universal Music Canada.

Gilliland added that digital business models which rely on streaming or that are subscription-based such as Spotify or Rhapsody cannot exist without DRM.

“They’re great for the consumer because it allows us, as a business, to say that you can access an entire catalogue of content and we can do that deal because of DRM,” Gilliland said.

However, Gilliland said that Canada’s biggest hurdle that the media industry faces is a complicated tariff system that hinders investment in the sector.

“I don’t think it’s that much different than other markets but I think when companies look at the market size of Canada and the complexity of launching a service here, it can get really overwhelming for them,” she said.

“It could be quite easily resolved if everyone could get to the table and collaborate.”

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<http://www.ipolitics.ca/2011/11/16/canadas-copyright-laws-lag-and-media-industries-will-suffer-execs-say/>

# Canada-U.S. moving quickly to ease burden of cross-border red tape

Posted on [Tue, Nov 15, 2011, 10:21 pm](#) by [David George-Cosh](#)

TORONTO – A bilateral regulatory agreement between the United States and Canada is “weeks” from release, a move industry executives hope will help bolster cross-border trade.

Michael Fitzpatrick, who leads the Obama administration’s development of regulatory policy and the American side of the Canada-U.S. Regulatory Co-operation Council, told the Canadian American Business Council that the plan will address the needs of a swath of sectors by easing the burden of red tape.

“I wouldn’t be surprised if it were to happen this year,” said Fitzpatrick, who spoke on the sidelines of the CABC annual policy forum on Tuesday. “Our goal and objective was to come up with specific items in a number of sectors. My guess is that a number of sectors that you would anticipate will be there [such as] health, food safety, agriculture, consumer products, transportation, environment and energy.”

The RCC was established last February by U.S. President Barack Obama and Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper to align the countries’ regulatory interests and simplify cross-border trade.

With nearly \$2 billion in trade between the two countries each day, barriers to cross-border business could no longer be ignored, said Bob Hamilton, who leads Canada’s position on the RCC and is the senior associate secretary at the Treasury Board of Canada.

“The cost of these frictions in terms of the cost of goods to consumers and businesses and access to product is just getting too large and we need to search out the differences,” Hamilton said.

The group was quickly formed following an exploratory meeting last December in Ottawa that found common ground in improving American and Canadian regulatory interests, recounted Fitzpatrick.

“We were first greeted with extraordinary enthusiasm [from the Canadian side],” he said.

“We flew back to DC with our head spinning and I said, ‘I think we’ve got something big.’ The next thing I knew, the president and prime minister were standing at the White House announcing [the RCC] seven weeks later.”

Fitzpatrick added that the agreement will be the first in what is said to be a continually updated regulatory plan that will be improved after consultations with stakeholders. “You might see more work being done on four of, say, seven sectors. It’ll be additive,” Fitzpatrick said.

Industry executives graciously welcome news that cross-border red tape will soon be eased, said Caroline Hughes, the director of government relations for the Ford Motor Company of Canada.

“Any time a part or the car crosses the border, we face border requirements, delays, congestion, paperwork, all the issues that go with getting that part from one side to another. All those incremental items add cost and inefficiencies while import vehicles cross the border once,” Hughes said.

“That’s what we’re up against in terms of competitiveness where we’re trying to manufacture vehicles for the globe in an environment where the differences are amplified versus an import vehicle that just has to face that difference once.”

Fitzpatrick added that the speed and ease in which the U.S. has begun to solve its regulatory trade issues with Canada has buoyed support that similar work can also be done with such trade partners as Mexico and the European Union.

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