

Canadian Free Trade Agreement  
**Regulatory Reconciliation  
and Cooperation Table**  
Annual Report

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## Message From the Chair

As Chair of the Regulatory Reconciliation and Cooperation Table (RCT) for 2026, the Government of Nunavut would like to thank the Government of the Northwest Territories for its leadership as Chair in 2025. In an extremely busy year of internal trade initiatives across Canada, the completed work and accomplishments under the RCT framework have supported this successful year on several fronts.

The Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA) came into force on July 1, 2017 with the objective of reducing and eliminating, to the extent possible, barriers to the free movement of persons, goods, services, and investments within Canada and establishing an open, efficient, and stable domestic market.

The CFTA commits each of the provincial, territorial, and federal governments to a comprehensive framework that supports the continued development of a modern and competitive economic union for all Canadians.

**An important feature of the CFTA is the creation of the RCT. The RCT has a mandate to oversee reconciliation and cooperation efforts aimed at reducing barriers to trade, investment, and labour mobility within Canada.**

While reconciliation efforts focus on addressing existing barriers, cooperation efforts seek to bring governments together to devise an agreed-upon path forward that will shape how they develop and/or implement regulatory measures, thereby avoiding the development of regulatory divergences. In this way, regulatory cooperation efforts can facilitate innovation, competition, and/or growth in emerging industries, technologies, or sectors.

Efforts to address the identified barriers are undertaken by working groups, with direction, support, and oversight by the RCT. These working groups are often pre-existing federal-provincial-territorial bodies such as the Provincial-Territorial Advisory Committee, the Canadian Association of Administrators of Labour Legislation-Occupational Safety and Health Subcommittee, and the Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators. Working groups are largely made up of subject matter experts responsible for regulatory policy development and/or enforcement in the domain of the work plan item. The RCT assigns a liaison to support each working group.



# RCT Achievements in 2025

The RCT continued to focus on the implementation of its seventh annual Work Plan (2025)

## A. Completed Agreements

Negotiations on **Regulatory Reconciliation Item #30 (Identification and Mutual Recognition of Regulatory Measures Related to the Sale or Provision of Goods and Services)** advanced significantly, with the completion of the Canadian Mutual Recognition Agreement on the sale of Goods (CMRA), which covers all goods except those found in HS Chapters 1-24. The CMRA was signed by most Parties during the Committee on Internal Trade's November 2025 meeting.

Although most Parties have signed the agreement, several have indicated that there is still work to be done to implement the agreement, with some indicating they will opt for delayed implementation until on or before June 30, 2026.

Negotiations on **Regulatory Reconciliation Item #25 Gasfitter/Gas Technician Licensing/Certification** were completed in 2025. The resulting reconciliation agreement commits signatories to alignment of their regulations or policies so as to enhance nationwide labour mobility and strengthen interjurisdictional commerce. Endorsed by all Parties, this agreement is now in the signature phase.

Complete texts of endorsed and signed reconciliation agreements, as well as summaries of these agreements, are available on the Accomplishments page of the RCT website.

## C. Continuous Improvement Efforts

As the RCT continues to look for opportunities to improve its efficiency and demonstrate its commitment to completing work plan items, the focus for 2025 was determining achievable time frames for work plan items. In past years, items were categorized as short/medium/long term initiatives. RCT has now removed the timeframe and will work with an actual date for completion.

2025 also saw the RCT move towards addressing items that have been deferred for a variety of reasons but have remained in the work plan. Any items that are removed can be re-added to the work plan in the future.

## RCT Work Plan

The RCT's eighth annual Work Plan (2026) was released publicly in March 2026.

In light of the focus on completing the negotiations on the CMRA, no new items were added to the work plan for 2026.

To date, a total of 19 regulatory reconciliation items and four regulatory cooperation items have been partly or fully completed on the 38-item work plan.

## Plans for 2026

The upcoming year will see some of the important work done under the RCT framework continue to progress. Building on its achievements, the RCT will continue to support work to reduce obstacles to more open trade across Canadian jurisdictions and look for opportunities to move the needle even further. Looking to the year ahead, the RCT will be focussed on making progress to expand the CMRA to other sectors.

Additionally, the RCT intends to support efforts to conclude negotiations on reconciliation items #15 (Food Inspection), #28 (Canadian Electrical Codes) and #31 (High-Visibility Safety Apparel).

In its focus on continuous improvement, RCT will continue to review deferred items to assess whether an item should be reactivated or removed. Removal requires the consensus of the RCT. Any removed item can be brought back to the work plan if a Party so desires at a later date.

The RCT will continue to welcome submissions of potential new work plan items through its Stakeholder Feedback Portal and representatives will continue to work directly with stakeholders to identify items that could be added to the work plan in the future.

Throughout the fall, the RCT will work to develop the 2026 Work Plan.

## Key Links

For further information on the RCT and its initiatives, please visit our website at: [rct-tccr.ca](https://rct-tccr.ca)

2026 RCT Work Plan:

<https://rct-tccr.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/RCT-2026-Work-Plan-Final-Version-for-Website-March-9-2026.pdf>

Regulatory Reconciliation and Cooperation Table Representatives: [rct-tccr.ca/  
list-of-representatives/](https://rct-tccr.ca/list-of-representatives/)



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