

Mexican President makes deals with Canada

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Wednesday, 02 June 2010 21:32 - Last Updated Wednesday, 02 June 2010 21:34

▣ ***This article was published in the AS/COA (American Society/Council of the Americas) newspaper. Roberto***

Calderón's Canada Visit Marked by Bilateral Deals, Visa Pitch

During an official visit by Mexican President Felipe Calderón to Canada from May 26 through May 28, Canada's Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced three areas for bilateral cooperation: an air transport pact to expand market access for both countries' airlines, youth mobility and exchange programs, and anti-crime capacity building. "We are setting the stage for the next decade of growth and cooperation between our two countries," said Harper. Trade between the two countries has grown from \$4 billion prior to NAFTA to \$21.3 billion in 2009.

Calderón also addressed the Canadian Parliament, where he argued that the future competitiveness of North America depends on deeper integration. However, he raised concerns about new visa restrictions for Mexicans implemented by Ottawa in July 2009. In the past 12 months, tourism from Mexico to Canada has dropped by almost 40 percent.

While he was in Canada, the CBC interviewed Calderón about his country's battle against narcotrafficking.