



# The North American PRTR Initiative: Update on Activities

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## Scope

The NA PRTR Initiative brings together data for more than 40,000 facilities reporting across the region since 2006 to:

- Canada's NPRI
- Mexico's *RETC*
- United States' TRI





# Objectives and Activities

- Compile, harmonize and analyze trinational data; provide enhanced access to information on pollutant releases and transfers across NA
- Work with governments and industry to enhance data quality and comparability
- Engage all sectors (industry, governments, NGOs, academia, the public) concerned about pollutants and access to environmental data
- Promote the use of PRTR data to support pollution prevention and sustainability.





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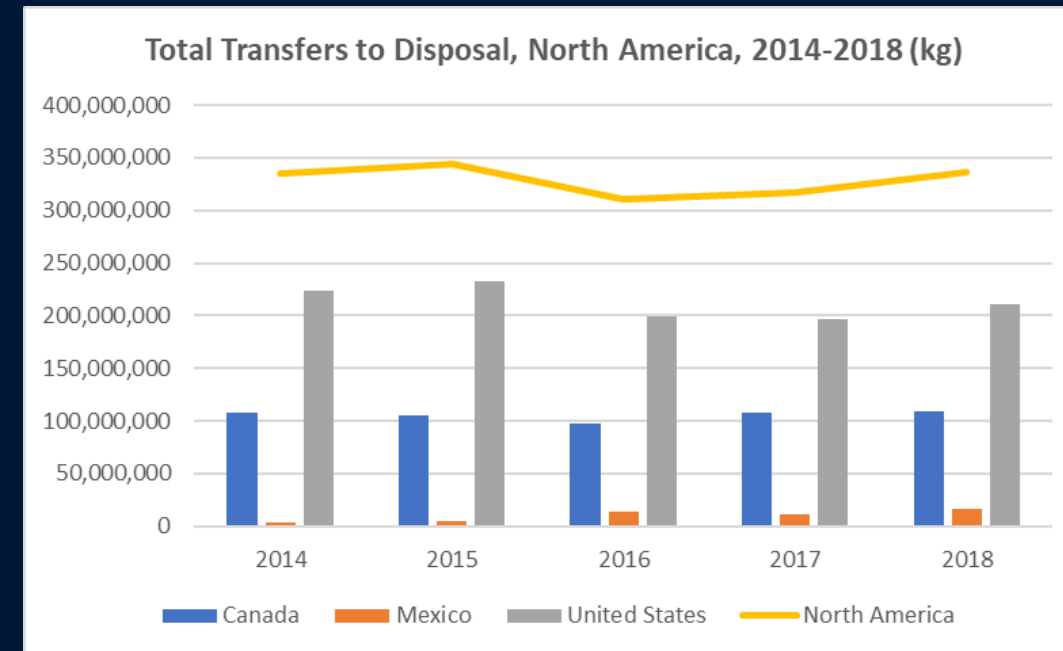
## Recent and Ongoing Activities

# Taking Stock, vol. 16 – Feature analysis: Off-site Transfers to Disposal (OSD), 2014-18

- To enhance the understanding of disposal practices, risks, and alternatives to waste generation and disposal.

## Key Findings:

- ❖ ~11,000 facilities reported ~ 335 million kg/year:
  - ~ 50% of the total: Landfills or surface impoundments
  - In 2<sup>nd</sup> rank: Underground Injection
  - Increases: Stabiliz'n prior to Disposal; Land Application
- ❖ In both Canada and US: OSD ~ 6% of Total Rs and Ts
- ❖ Mexico: OSD ↑ from 12% - 34% (gold & silver mining)
- ❖ > 2/3 of OSD in NA: 10 sectors and 10 pollutants, e.g.:
  - steel mfg, oil/gas extraction, electricity gen., waste mgt
  - zinc, manganese, lead, barium (compds); hydrogen sulfide



# *What can we learn from this analysis?*

## *(selected results)*

### 1. Important data gaps across the region due to:

- a. Different reporting requirements (for sectors, pollutants, and disposal practices)
- b. Shared responsibilities (e.g., federal/state/provincial), and involvement of third parties (e.g., waste mgt service providers) = gaps in information
- c. Incomplete information about waste recipients.

- These gaps impede the tracking and management of waste transfers
- These gaps also constrain the ability to respond to extreme events (e.g., floods) that can remobilize pollutants from disposal sites.

### 2. Relatively few sectors and pollutants play a role in reported off-site transfers to disposal across NA.

- This can inform targeted pollution prevention (P2) policies and programs.



# Cooperation on North American Data Quality and Comparability

## Enhancing North American PRTR Data Comparability

- Assessment of data gaps across the region and development of strategies to address them

## Cross-border Transfers Project (OECD Collaboration)

- Assessment of CBT data quality and possible improvements to reported information

## Industry Pollution Prevention (P2) Challenge

- Assessment of P2 data for the Automotive Mfg Sector and Supply Chain, and how to make the data more useful for decision-making



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*Taking Stock Online*  
([www.cec.org/takingstock](http://www.cec.org/takingstock))

Demonstration