

BEYOND THE BORDER ACTION PLAN NEWS OCTOBER 2014

Below is an update on recent work completed to advance the *Beyond the Border* Action Plan. At the end of this newsletter you will find a list of easy links to all of the related reports and strategies that have been released as a result of work completed under this Action Plan.

RECENT PROGRESS ON INITIATIVES

- A key challenge to **cross border emergency communications** was recently overcome with the October 21, 2014 [announcement of an agreement](#) between Industry Canada and the United States (U.S.) Federal Communications Commission, allowing each country's emergency responders to bring and use portable mobile devices, such as hand-held radios, across the border without permit. The agreement furthers the objective of the *Beyond the Border* Canada-U.S. Communications Interoperability Working Group, co-led by Public Safety Canada and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.
- The Canada-U.S. *Beyond the Border* **Executive Steering Committee** (ESC) met on September 4, 2014, in Canada's capital region to discuss progress on the *Beyond the Border* Action Plan, now in its third year of implementation. ESC members focused on advancing key initiatives and discussing future directions, with a view to determining a way forward for the coming year. For a summary of the meeting, [click here](#).
- Following a "soft launch" in January, 2014, a new Trusted Trader benefit, "**CSA Platinum**", was officially announced on July 21, 2014, for Customs Self-Assessment (CSA) importers who demonstrate that their business systems, internal controls and self-testing processes are effective and reliable at ensuring compliance with the Canada Border Services Agency's (CBSA) trade programs. Importers who wish to apply to the Platinum benefit program can visit the CBSA Trusted Trader website for more [information](#).
- On July 8, 2014, the Honourable Steven Blaney, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, announced that the **NEXUS** program has surpassed its one millionth member milestone. The bi-national program administered in collaboration with the U.S. has been growing in popularity, particularly since the implementation of the *Beyond the Border* Action Plan, as more travelers realize the benefits of membership. More information about NEXUS can be found [here](#).
- CBSA launched its **Trusted Trader Portal** on June 15, 2014, to provide secure and efficient online services to accredited members of the trade community. The Portal will allow eligible companies to submit online applications for membership in Partners in Protection (PIP) and obtain timely updates on the progress of their application. It will also allow existing PIP members to manage their Trusted Trader membership online. The Trusted Trader portal can be accessed [here](#).

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- May 26, 2014, marked the beginning date of the **NEXUS eGate** pilot project. This pilot project allows 24/7 access to the NEXUS lanes located at The Peace Bridge in Fort Erie, Ontario. To learn more about the project [click here](#).

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- During the week of October 13, 2014, the Senior Advisor to the Privy Council Office, Border Action Plan Implementation, gave an update on the status of the Action Plan and the recent work of the Regulatory Cooperation Council at a Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters stakeholder roundtable in Vancouver, British Columbia, and met one-on-one with key representatives from industry and the provincial and regional governments. More information about the RCC's Forward Plan can be found [here](#).
- On September 25-26, 2014, the [Borders in Globalization conference](#) was held at Carleton University and the University of Ottawa. The conference debuted the next six years of research activities, concentrating on finding solutions for border challenges as well as policy research. A senior official of the Privy Council Office's *Beyond the Border* implementation team participated in the *Governance of Borders* panel.
- The Eagle Eye Expositions [Beyond the Border 2.0 Conference](#) was held in Detroit, Michigan on September 16-17, 2014, bringing together local, state, provincial and federal agencies, as well as business organizations, to advance border issues between Canada and the U.S. The Senior Advisor to the Privy Council Office, Border Action Plan Implementation, along with the Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, participated on a panel that discussed current progress and challenges of the Beyond the Border Action Plan and vision for the future.
- In conjunction with their September 4, 2014, meeting, the *Beyond the Border* Executive Steering Committee held a dedicated roundtable session to hear from Canadian and American stakeholders on issues of consequence to the cross-border business community. Overall, a clear message was delivered: there is strong support for continued efforts to complete the initial Action Plan and encouragement to continue using *Beyond the Border* as a means to strengthen security and border management going forward.
- On July 16, 2014, senior officials from Canada and the U.S. participated in a roundtable at [the 24th Annual Summit of the Pacific Northwest Economic Region](#) (PNWER) in Whistler, British Columbia. The *Border Issues* themed roundtable provided attendees an opportunity to give regional input on the *Beyond the Border* Action Plan. Canadian Ambassador Doer and U.S. Ambassador Heyman were both in attendance.
- The American Association of Exporters and Importers (AAEI) held their [93rd Annual Conference and Expo](#) on June 16-18, 2014, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Issues in trade and direction of trade in the U.S. were discussed. As well, conference attendees were updated on progress under the *Beyond the Border* Action Plan and key priorities going forward.

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- On June 2, 2014, a presentation on the *Beyond the Border* Action Plan was included as part of the American Railway Development Association Annual Conference, in Calgary, Alberta.
- To support the development of regional bi-national plans to quickly restore maritime transportation system operations following a natural disaster, accident, security incident or other disruption in Great Lakes region, stakeholder consultation sessions were held in Montreal (May 22, 2014), Hamilton (July 17, 2014) and Detroit (August 20, 2014).

REPORTS

- On October 6, 2014, the CBSA and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) released a report pertaining to the Customs Self-Assessment (CSA) [Pilot Study for Processed Foods](#). The 18-month project involved working with a major food importing company to test the feasibility of allowing the importation of selected low-risk processed, prepackaged foods from the U.S. into Canada under the CSA Program, while continuing to meet or exceed CFIA food safety objectives. Overall, the pilot was useful in identifying key issues, which would need to be addressed if the CSA Program were to be adopted for processed foods on a broader scale.
- The **Council on Foreign Relations** (CFR) released its Task Force Report entitled, “North America: Time for a New Focus”, on October 1, 2014. The report encourages the strengthening of relationships between North American countries through economic, energy, security, environmental and societal cooperation. The report makes multiple references to *Beyond the Border*. The report can be found on the [CFR website](#).

Border Action Plan General Reference Documents and Useful Links

- *Beyond the Border* Action Plan News – [Spring 2014](#)
- Canada-U.S. *Beyond the Border* Action Plan [Implementation Report](#) (December 2013)
- [Beyond the Border Action Plan](#): A Shared Vision for Perimeter Security and Economic Competitiveness (December 2011)
- Joint [Action Plan](#) for the Canada-United States Regulatory Cooperation Council
- CBSA Border Action Plan [website](#)

To stay connected, or for more information...

For more information about the *Beyond the Border* Action plan, feel free to visit the website. If you have questions or comments, our email address is below.

- Website: www.actionplan.gc.ca/border
- Email: border@actionplan.gc.ca

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