

## Beyond The Border Action Plan News May 2013

Welcome to the first in a series of regular [Beyond the Border Action Plan](#) email updates. These will be sent periodically to provide you with information on work to advance the Action Plan.

### Executive Steering Committee Met in Washington

- On Wednesday, May 8, the Canada-U.S. Beyond the Border [Executive Steering Committee \(ESC\) met in Washington, D.C.](#) to discuss progress to date and the way forward for implementing the Action Plan. This was the second annual meeting of the ESC, which includes high-level participation from Canada's Privy Council Office, the U.S. White House and senior officials from the departments and agencies in both countries that are directly involved in implementing the Action Plan. In addition to reviewing updates on completed, in-progress, and upcoming deliverables, the ESC emphasized the importance of the joint [Statement of Privacy Principles](#) in informing and guiding all information and intelligence sharing under the Beyond the Border Action Plan and looked ahead to additional opportunities for outreach as well as the anticipated December 2013 Implementation Report.

### Canada's Economic Action Plan Investments For Beyond The Border Action Plan Initiatives

- On March 21, [Economic Action Plan 2013](#) was released. It underlines the importance of the investments in economic and security initiatives to implement Canada's commitments under the Beyond the Border Action Plan. These include upgrading border infrastructure, implementing a single window for companies to submit electronically all data required by government departments for arriving shipments, harmonizing and enhancing the benefits of trusted trader and traveller programs, equipping new customs facilities and implementing pilot projects to automate small and remote ports of entry.
- Economic Action Plan 2013 also highlighted a number of initiatives over the next five years to address threats as early as possible and allow border agencies to further facilitate the flow of legitimate goods and people across our shared border. These include enhancing Canada's capability to share immigration information with the U.S. to improve immigration and refugee determinations and help officials to establish the identity of foreign nationals at the earliest opportunity; implementing an Electronic Travel Authorization system to improve screening of all visa-exempt foreign nationals (excluding U.S. citizens), supporting integrated cross-border law enforcement initiatives, developing an Interactive Advance Passenger Information System to make "board/no board" decisions prior to departure on all travellers flying to Canada and establishing and coordinating entry and exit information systems with the U.S., including a system where the record of land entry into one country can be utilized to establish a record of exit from the other.

## Recent Progress on Initiatives

- On May 29, the first-ever joint Canada-United States [Border Infrastructure Investment Plan \(BIIP\) was released](#). The BIIP is an interagency and bi-national planning mechanism developed to establish a mutual understanding of recent, ongoing and potential border infrastructure investments. It also outlines the approach that Canada and the United States will take to coordinate plans for physical infrastructure upgrades at small and remote ports of entry.
- In late March and early April, Canada announced investments in border infrastructure at [Landsdowne, Ontario](#); [Emerson, Manitoba](#); [North Portal, Saskatchewan](#) and [Lacolle Quebec](#). These investments will expand and modernize infrastructure at these four border crossings to help travellers and trade move faster from the U.S. into Canada.
- On May 24, Canada announced that the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) will proceed with remote traveller processing pilots at [Piney, Manitoba](#) and [Morses Line, Quebec](#) border crossings beginning in April 2015. The pilots will test the viability and potential benefits of expanding remote traveller processing at select small and remote ports of entry as a way to increase efficiency, while maintaining border integrity and access to needed border services. These pilots are part of the Small and Remote Ports of Entry Initiative, led by the CBSA and United States Customs and Border Protection (U.S. CBP). This initiative allows Canada and the United States (U.S.) to jointly coordinate investments along the shared border, improving accessibility and increasing efficiency.
- On [May 13, 2013](#), Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) released a [joint report](#) on the findings of Phase I of the Entry/Exit Initiative. The report demonstrates progress in establishing a coordinated Entry/Exit information system that enhances border security. Phase I tested the concept of an Entry/Exit system for both countries through the exchange of entry information on third-country nationals and permanent residents, such that a record of entry into one country becomes a record of exit from the other.
- On [March 14, 2013](#), Vic Toews, Minister of Public Safety, and Janet Napolitano, the United States Secretary of Homeland Security, met in Washington to advance cooperation that will further strengthen security at the Canada–U.S. border, while facilitating the legitimate flow of goods and people. In addition to signing a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) that paves the way for a U.S. Customs and Border Protection truck cargo pre-inspection pilot project on Canadian soil, the Minister and Secretary discussed other key priority action items of the Beyond the Border Action Plan. These items included integrated cargo security initiatives, countering violent extremism and cooperation on the land border entry/exit system.

- On March 6, 2013, Canadian and American first responders and enforcement officers took part in a [technology demonstration of harmonized cross-border emergency communications](#). The technology demonstration, called Canada – U.S. Enhanced Resiliency Experiment (CAUSE), tested the interoperability of the Canadian Multi-Agency Situational Awareness System (MASAS), the American Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) and the Virtual USA Platform. The goal of these interoperable systems is to share alerts, warnings and incident information to improve response coordination across the border during bi-national disasters.
- On March 6-7, 2013, Public Safety Canada, in partnership with United States Customs and Border Protection and the CBSA, hosted a joint tabletop exercise to strengthen emergency traffic management plans and procedures in the Buffalo-Niagara cross-border region. The event brought together a diverse set of public and private sector stakeholders to advance an integrated and multi-jurisdictional approach to managing border traffic during emergencies in order to:
  - ensure that first responders are not delayed at the border when emergency assistance is needed;
  - maintain economic stability during times of crisis; and
  - improve communication among key stakeholders to help manage border congestion.

This was the first in a series of regional border traffic management exercises that will be conducted under the Beyond the Border Action Plan.

- In the February to May period additional NEXUS lanes into Canada were opened at the [Peace Bridge \(Fort Erie, Ontario\)](#) and [Pacific Highway \(Surrey, British Columbia\)](#) and the [Queeston-Lewiston Bridge \(Queenston, Ontario\)](#) border crossings, providing more efficient border clearance for low-risk travellers at these ports of entry. Other achievements for NEXUS to-date include:
  - opening of additional NEXUS lanes at border crossings in Abbotsford and Douglas, B.C. as well as Sarnia, Ontario last fall,
  - conducting enrolment blitzes to assist with increasing application volumes;
  - streamlining the membership renewal process;
  - lifting the three-year residency requirement for Canadian and American citizens to apply to NEXUS;
  - expanding Trusted Traveller Canadian Air Transport Security Authority (CATSA) security screening lines to 14 major and mid-sized Canadian airports; and
  - expedited clearance through the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Pre-✓ lanes at 27 participating airports for domestic travel within the U.S.

Since the release of the Border Action Plan 18 months ago NEXUS membership has grown by 40%. Up from just over 601,000 members in November 2011, now close to 840,000 trusted travellers enjoy NEXUS benefits.

- Work under the Action Plan to protect cross-border digital infrastructure and expand joint leadership on cyber security has continued to progress. For instance, cooperation and information sharing amongst the Canadian Cyber Incident Response Center (CCIRC), U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team (U.S.-CERT), and the Industrial Control Systems CERT (ICS-CERT) has evolved significantly, and now includes jointly developed products, and harmonized standard operating procedures for cyber events. Also, a technical exchange program was started in 2012 which allows national technical staff to be embedded in their counterpart organization, to learn and exchange on respective tools and processes. Meanwhile, PS and CCIRC participated in a joint cyber incident exercise with U.S. officials on March 20 and 21, 2013. Other notable bilateral and multilateral advancements on cyber security include:
  - Public Safety Canada and the DHS are working together to deliver joint threat briefings to our private sectors.
  - Public Safety Canada has been hosting invitation-only control systems security workshops that bring together owners and operators of Canadian critical infrastructure to raise awareness of cyber security risks, and the steps for mitigating those risks.
  - Public Safety Canada and the U.S.-based [STOP.THINK.CONNECT](#).™ signed a Memorandum of Cooperation in 2012 which will facilitate the alignment of cyber security public awareness campaigns to provide citizens with consistent, reliable and important advice and tools to help increase personal online security.
  
- On January 8, Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) announced that Canada and the U.S. have [increased and harmonized the value thresholds for expedited customs clearance](#) to CDN\$2,500 and USD\$2,500 respectively. In addition, Canada has increased the low-value shipment threshold to CDN\$2,500 for exemption from North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) Certificate of Origin requirements, aligning it with the current threshold of the U.S. This will make it easier and faster for Canadian and American businesses to move goods across our shared border – allowing an additional 1.5 million shipments to be cleared on the day of arrival thereby increasing efficiency and decreasing costs.
  
- Critical infrastructure, such as the electricity grid, transportation, communications and financial systems, is interconnected physically and virtually across the border, and protecting these vital assets and systems requires a coordinated and collaborative approach between Canada and the U.S.. As part of these efforts, Canada and the U.S. are currently conducting a pilot Regional Resilience Assessment Program (RRAP) in New Brunswick and Maine, to be completed by December 31, 2013. The RRAP brings together regional officials and private sector stakeholders on both sides of the border to conduct site assessments, analyze risks, identify gaps and, based on this input, conduct workshops and table top exercises to address these gaps. This initiative will enhance cross border situational awareness of risks and threats to critical infrastructure and improve response and recovery efforts when disruptions occur.

## Stakeholder Engagement

- On May 6-7, the Canadian/American Border Trade Alliance Conference was held in Ottawa. The Can/Am BTA is a bi-national organization comprised of public and private organizations engaged in Canada–U.S. trade, transportation and tourism. [The Honourable Vic Toews, Minister of Public Safety, and the Honourable Steven Fletcher, Minister of State \(Transport\)](#), spoke on the benefits of and the progress made to date under the Beyond the Border Action Plan. Officials from the Privy Council Office and CBSA also provided conference attendees with further information on the work being done to implement Action Plan initiatives.
- On April 23-25 the [Canada – U.S. Transportation Border Working Group \(TBWG\)](#) held its semi-annual plenary meeting in Detroit, Michigan, chaired by Ted Mackay (Transport Canada) and James Cheatham (Federal Highway Administration). Panel discussions were held on a wide variety of issues, including several Beyond the Border items (Border Infrastructure Investment Plan; Border Wait Time Technology; Preclearance; Integrated Cargo Security Strategy). Participants toured the Detroit and Windsor sites of the future Detroit River International Crossing and the Herb Gray Parkway. Attendance included officials from numerous Canadian and US departments and agencies, provinces, states and public border operators.
- Public Safety Canada and the US Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) representatives participated in a [NORAD/Northcom Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear \(CBRN\) Summit](#) in Colorado Springs from April 15-19. The Summit assembled Canadian and U.S. civilian and military experts who deal with a variety of CBRN events. The summit included panel discussions, and working groups on logistics, command and control and medical response. A table-top exercise explored NORAD and USNORTHCOM's role in international CBRN response challenges identified during the Beyond the Border meetings. More than 90 people took part, including officials from DFAIT, the Canadian Joint Operations Command, the Department of Homeland Security, Department of Energy, and local responders.
- On February 4, senior members of the Border Implementation Team, along with their US counterparts, took part an event organized by the US Chamber of Commerce in Washington, D.C. This event provided an opportunity to provide an update on the work being done under the Beyond the Border Action Plan and engage with over 200 members of the Canadian and U.S. business communities.
- In addition, members of the Border Implementation Team continue to meet individually and collectively with business and community stakeholders as well as with provinces and municipalities. The latter meetings have included visits to Montreal and Quebec City, Winnipeg, Regina, Calgary and Edmonton between January and mid May 2013. The

team will continue to look for opportunities to provide ongoing information and updates to stakeholders in the coming months.

- Facilitating the cross-border movement of business travellers is a central component of the Action Plan. The governments of Canada and the U.S. held joint stakeholder consultations in Washington, D.C. and Toronto in May 2012 to receive feedback on the actions identified in the BTB Action Plan, and to identify and assess how the two governments could further facilitate the bilateral movement of business travellers. The [report](#) on these consultations was released in December 2012.

### **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](http://www.actionplan.gc.ca/border)
- Email: [border@actionplan.gc.ca](mailto:border@actionplan.gc.ca)

### **BTB Reference Documents**

In case you haven't had a chance to read them yet, please take a look at some of our seminal Border Action Plan related documents:

- [What Canadians told us: A Summary on Consultations on Perimeter Security and Economic Competitiveness](#) (August 2011)
- [Beyond the Border Action Plan: A Shared Vision for Perimeter Security and Economic Competitiveness](#) (Dec 2011):
- [Canada-United States Beyond the Border Action Plan Implementation Report](#) (December 2012)

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