

## BEYOND THE BORDER ACTION PLAN NEWS SUMMER 2015

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.

### EXECUTIVE STEERING COMMITTEE MET IN WASHINGTON

- On June 17th 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 fourth annual meeting of the ESC, which includes high-level participation from Canada's Privy Council Office (PCO), the U.S. White House and senior officials from lead departments and agencies responsible for implementing the Action Plan.

### RECENT PROGRESS ON INITIATIVES

- In February, the second Canada–U.S. Border Infrastructure Investment Plan (BIIP) was released. The BIIP aims to ensure a mutual understanding of available funds for targeted projects and the schedule, scope, and responsibilities for border projects. It covers significant upgrades that have an impact on transportation and inspection capacity at the border. The BIIP is prepared by the Governments of Canada and the U.S. in consultation with provincial/state governments and border operators and is available at: [https://www.tc.gc.ca/media/documents/policy/BIIP\\_20.pdf](https://www.tc.gc.ca/media/documents/policy/BIIP_20.pdf)
- On March 16<sup>th</sup> in Washington, D.C., Canada's Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness and U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security signed the *Agreement on Land, Rail, Marine and Air Transport Preclearance between the Government of Canada and the Government of the United States of America*. The new Agreement covers all modes of travel, including air, and would replace the existing Air Transport Preclearance Agreement, which was signed in 2001. It will allow the market to propose preclearance operations when and where it makes sense – facilitating trade and travel, and creating economic benefits for Canadians. New preclearance operations would require approval by both Canada and the U.S. The preclearance news release and related backgrounders are available at <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=950429>.

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- Since going “live” on March 29<sup>th</sup>, Canada’s Single Window Initiative (SWI) has now incorporated six of nine regulating government agencies and three early industry adopters. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency is expected to onboard in the coming months, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission will follow in 2016. CBSA also expects additional industry clients to adopt single window by August 2015. For more information, refer to the [SWI Customs Notice, Implementation of the Single Window Initiative](#).
- On March 31<sup>st</sup> Transport Canada and the U.S. Transportation Security Administration renewed the existing mutual recognition agreement of their national air cargo security programs for three more years. As outlined in the *Beyond the Border Forward Plan* (as part of the 2014 Implementation Report), they intend to expand the agreement, which presently recognizes screening by air carriers, to include recognition of the screening and security controls performed by entities such as shippers and freight forwarders earlier in the secure supply chain.
- Economic Action Plan 2015, released in April, announced Government of Canada investments of \$5.8 billion over six years in infrastructure across the country – including \$440 million to expedite the replacement of border infrastructure and \$204 million to support enhancements to federally-owned and operated airports as well as improvements to VIA Rail Canada Inc.’s rail infrastructure.
- The 2014 *Beyond the Border* Implementation Report to Leaders was released on May 19<sup>th</sup>. The release coincided with a meeting between the Prime Minister and a select group of *Beyond the Border* stakeholders where progress on the Action Plan and priorities going forward were discussed. The Report is available at: <http://actionplan.gc.ca/en/content/beyond-border-implementation-report-march-2015>
- On July 8<sup>th</sup> the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Justice announced that Canada has ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime, commonly known as the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime. Ratification of the convention meets a Border Action Plan commitment and strengthens Canada’s ability to cooperate fully with its international partners in the fight against cybercrime. For more information, visit <http://www.international.gc.ca/media/aff/news-communiques/2015/07/08b.aspx?lang=eng>.
- Also in July, an additional NEXUS Flex lane technology opened at the Derby Line-Stanstead Border Crossing, providing more efficient border clearance for low-risk travellers. This lane will be used to process NEXUS members during high-volume periods (between 3:00 and 5:00) and as a regular lane at other times. Since the release of the Border Action Plan in 2011, NEXUS membership has grown to over 1.2 million trusted travellers.

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- Canada is phasing in a new entry requirement, known as Canada's Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA), for visa-exempt foreign nationals travelling to Canada by air. eTA is a key commitment under the Canada-U.S. Beyond the Border Action Plan. It will allow Canada to pre-screen travellers who otherwise would only be screened for admissibility upon arrival in Canada. As of August 1st, citizens from countries other than the United States who do not normally need a visa to enter Canada can go online and apply for their eTA ahead of the March 2016 mandatory enforcement date. Entry requirements for other modes of travel to Canada (land and sea) have not changed.  
[For more information or to apply for an eTA.](#)

### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- On April 29th a member of the Privy Council Office (PCO) Border Implementation Team participated in the [Ontario Trucking Association's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Can-Am Border](#) symposium. The conference explored the impact recent cross-border initiatives have had on the highway sector and the future of trucking. PCO highlighted trucking-related achievements as part of the Action Plan.
- As part of World Trade Week, the U.S. Commercial Service in Portland, Oregon, and the U.S. Department of Commerce hosted a panel on May 20<sup>th</sup> titled "NAFTA: Building on the past 20 years with Beyond the Border Initiative." PCO provided an overview of the Action Plan, progress to date and future goals.
- On June 1<sup>st</sup> the Deputy Minister of Industry Canada participated in a stakeholder roundtable with the U.S. Deputy Secretary of Commerce. The event was hosted at Niagara Transformer Corporation in Buffalo, New York and included some 25 stakeholders from both sides of the border, including manufacturers, economic development agencies, and visitors' bureaus, as well as a senior official from the Border Implementation Team. The roundtable brought together stakeholders from both sides of the border to look at ways to enhance economic competitiveness in the Canada-U.S. relationship, which included discussions on the Beyond the Border and the Regulatory Cooperation Council initiatives, as well as the role of integrated supply chains in the Canadian and U.S. manufacturing sectors. The roundtable capped off a one-day joint border tour in Fort Erie, Ontario and Buffalo, New York that included a factory tour at Fleet Canada, an aerospace manufacturer in Fort Erie, and a tour of the Peace Bridge crossing (with CBSA, U.S. CBP and the Peace Bridge Authority).
- Senior officials from PCO and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security gave a joint presentation at the [25<sup>th</sup> Annual Summit of the Pacific Northwest Economic Region \(PNWER\)](#) in Big Sky, Montana on July 14<sup>th</sup>. The presentation focused on progress to date under the Action Plan and 2015 milestones.

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### Border Action Plan General Reference Documents and Useful Links

- Canada – United States Border Infrastructure Investment Plan (BIIP) – ([February 2015](#))
- Canada-United States 2014 Beyond the Border Action Plan Implementation Report – ([March 2015](#))
- Beyond the Border Action Plan News – ([October 2014](#))
- Canada-United States 2013 Beyond the Border Action Plan Implementation Report – ([December 2013](#))
- Canada-United States 2012 Beyond the Border Action Plan Implementation Report ([December 2012](#))
- 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](http://www.actionplan.gc.ca/border)
- Email: [border@actionplan.gc.ca](mailto:border@actionplan.gc.ca)

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