



## Customs and Immigration Union Syndicat des Douanes et de l'Immigration

March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Beyond the Border Working Group  
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By Email: [border@ic.gc.ca](mailto:border@ic.gc.ca)

To whom it may concern;

We are pleased to provide you with this submission from the Customs and Immigration Union (CIU) in relation to the proposed Canada-US Perimeter Security and Economic Competitiveness Plan.

CIU is the Union representing the employees who proudly work at the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) which includes all Front-Line Customs & Immigration Officers deployed at Canada's Points-of-Entry, Immigration Inland Enforcement Officers, as well as Trade, Intelligence, and Investigations Officers. CIU member's duties encompass both the security and trade components of the proposed Canada-US agreement.

The CIU has been a prominent public policy advocate for enhanced intelligence-led border security and enforcement measures for well over two decades. As such, we are pleased to note that the summary of the contemplated Canada-US Perimeter Agreement are largely consistent with recommendations we have already made and which we continue to promote.

This Submission is intended to provide specific detailed suggestions in the context of the areas announced by Prime Minister Harper and President Obama on February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

### ***Integrated Cross-Border Law-Enforcement***

The CIU fully supports cross-border cooperative enforcement measures when supported by the utilization and deployment of *all* available duly-trained Canadian resources for such activities. Specific recommendations from the CIU in this regard include:

- Amend the Shiprider Agreement (and Bill S-13) to specifically include CBSA as a participating Agency.

- Qualify and enrol *all* affected local police agencies in the Shiprider program.
- Direct CBSA to *fully* participate in joint-force, mobile, intelligence-led border-patrol initiatives through the expansion of the current *Lacolle QC Border-Patrol Pilot Project*.
- Expand the RCMP tested (already deployed in some areas) automated analytical marine and low-flying aircraft radar system on an integrated basis with US authorities to further support cross-border interdiction activities.
- Amend the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA) Regulations for persons departing Canada to permit the matching of information to defined databases including information which would allow the matching of travelers with outstanding domestic criminal and/or deportation warrants.
- Amend the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA) Regulations to permit the matching of information with US officials for matching to inadmissibility and lookout databases as jointly determined by Canada and the US.

### ***Addressing Threats as Early as Possible***

The CIU has long advocated an intelligence-led enforcement approach for enhanced screening at Canada's Points-of-Entry so as to detect persons who are inadmissible to Canada as well as those who are criminal and/or security fugitives. While this clearly needs to be done internationally, there is a special need for joint information databases of such persons to be readily available to Officers at the Canada-US border. CIU has advocated the creation and deployment of an *Enhanced Lookout System* using face recognition biometric technology in multiple submissions to Government and Parliament as well as through officer safety complaints pursuant to the Canada Labour Code. Specific recommendations from the CIU in this regard include:

- Deployment of a Canada-US *Face Recognition Biometric Lookout System* comprised of:
  - ◆ Security cases (domestic and international)
  - ◆ Criminal fugitives (select domestic/Can-US and international)
  - ◆ Fraudulent Immigration cases (as per Five Party Conference agreement)

Note: The management and maintenance of such databases would need to be emphasized as an operational priority for CBSA.

- Review of the existing *Corporate Can-Pass Air Program* to ensure suitable screening of persons is in place

- Enhance the Safe Third Country Agreement to ensure only appropriate exceptions are allowed and for Canada and the US to work jointly towards extending the Agreement to the EU and other jurisdictions
- Direct CBSA to restore local intelligence-led targeting programs which are scheduled for centralizing in Ottawa via an ill-advised cost-savings measure
- Develop common Canada-US cargo screening at Points-of-Entry so that suitably screened and secured cargo containers can be expedited for clearance at the Canada-US border

***Joint Action - Facilities & Programs***

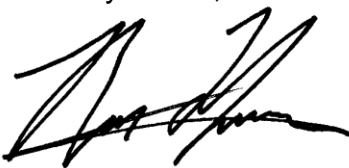
The CIU has emphatically condemned recent unilateral actions by CBSA to close or reduce hours of operation at a number of Land-Border Points-of-Entry where contiguous US Points-of Entry remain open. Such actions compromise domestic security and are contradictory to the *joint* approach wisely contemplated by the Canada-US Agreement at hand. CIU recommendations in this area include:

- Direct CBSA to suspend all announced closures and reductions in service at Points-of-Entry and Points-of-Service pending completion of the current joint discussions on optimized facilities management
- Implement pre-border clearance at select locations
- Expand on mutually acceptable low-risk but well-monitored identification programs including modification of facilities to expedite the clearance of pre-approved travelers and commercial carriers

The Governments of Canada and the United States have established a '*Beyond the Border Working Group*' to help shape the important *Perimeter Agreement* which has the potential to enhance security and trade efficiency at the benefit of both countries.

It is our sincere hope that CIU's submission and recommendations on these matters will be of assistance as the group undertakes this fundamentally important work. Please note that we would be pleased to offer further detail should that be of interest.

Sincerely Yours,



**Ron Moran**  
National President