



# Archived Content

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## Beyond the Border U.S. Fact Sheet

### January 2017

#### Overview

The United States and Canada have a long tradition of working together to promote security and facilitate trade and travel across our borders, ensuring that they remain open to legitimate trade and travel and closed to terrorists, criminals, and illegal or unauthorized goods. Before the announcement by President Obama and then-Prime Minister Harper in 2011 of the Beyond the Border Declaration: A Shared Vision for Perimeter Security and Economic Competitiveness (Beyond the Border) and implementation of many of the items included in its accompanying Action Plan, much of this cooperation related to efforts directly at the border.

Beyond the Border represented a paradigm shift in our mutual relationship, with a focus on cooperating within, at, and away from our borders to address the layered threats not only to our citizens and our cross-border trade and travel, but also to our physical and cyber infrastructure, and to do so as early as possible. Through Beyond the Border, we created a new framework for the U.S.-Canada relationship in the U.S. interagency that led to enhancing security while facilitating legitimate trade and travel.

Although we have accomplished much in the past six years to enhance perimeter security and economic competitiveness, there is still more that our two countries can do. Below we reflect upon the significant Beyond the Border accomplishments and look to the future of our collaboration.

#### Addressing Threats Early

*Under Beyond the Border, the United States and Canada have taken important steps to ensure the security of our nations, prevent criminals and terrorists from exploiting legitimate trade and travel, and expand North American perimeter security. Key examples include:*

- The United States and Canada negotiated the **Visa and Immigration Information Sharing Agreement**, signed in December 2012, which led to the automated sharing of biographic and biometric information to assist each other in making visa determinations beginning in 2013 and 2015, respectively, providing both countries with greater visibility regarding potential travelers. Canada was able to draw on this process to support its screening of the more than 30,000 Syrian refugees it resettled since 2015.
- Canada also developed a mechanism in 2016 for incorporating security screening of visa-exempt travelers to Canada through its Electronic Travel Authorization system. Together with the Interactive Advance Passenger Information, perimeter security is enhanced by identifying potential threats and otherwise ineligible travelers prior to their departure for North America.

- In 2016, we jointly developed protocols to exchange information on those who present a clear threat, including **exchanging our respective “No-Fly” lists**, with appropriate protections for the handling and dissemination of such information. Together we are working to develop redress processes to correct inaccurate information.
- In 2013, we deployed an **Entry/Exit** program so that the entry record into one country serves as an exit record from the other country for all third-country nationals and lawful permanent residents crossing the land border, providing greater visibility on cross-border travel. In 2016, Canada began sharing information on U.S. citizens and introduced legislation authorizing this data exchange for Canadian citizens as well. When enacted, this will allow our countries to fully implement the Entry/Exit initiative for all travelers by 2018.
- In June 2012, we developed **joint privacy principles** to underpin our information sharing protocols. These principles reflect a common understanding and recognition by both the United States and Canada of safeguards for personally identifiable information. This unprecedented collaboration solidifies the mutual commitment to individual privacy by both countries.
- By the end of 2016, Canada deployed Transportation Security Administration (TSA)-certified **Explosive Detection Systems** to all eight preclearance locations in Canada, which will be fully operational in each location in mid-2017. This eliminates the need to routinely recheck passenger baggage on connecting flights upon arrival in the United States, thus benefiting both governments, travelers, airports, and airlines.
- In 2016, the Canadian Air Transport Screening Authority fully implemented its **Security in Advance** initiative in all eight preclearance airports, which requires travelers to be screened by Canadian authorities prior to entering U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) preclearance areas, thereby better protecting officers and travelers alike.
- To enhance our mutual trade security, in 2013, the United States and Canada developed an **Integrated Cargo Security Strategy** and implemented a pilot to test it. The pilot, conducted in 2014, sought to “push out the border” by using advance information to secure the movement of goods entering the continent. The pilot generated useful lessons learned for future opportunities to enhance continental cargo security.
- To move goods faster, more efficiently, and more securely between our countries, the U.S. and Canada achieved **mutual recognition of air cargo security**, meaning that cargo shipped on passenger aircraft gets screened at the earliest point of origin and does not need to be rescreened for security purposes upon arrival or prior to upload in the other country.
- To protect our citizens from animal and plant health risks, our countries developed a **Health Security Working Group** and have conducted several joint assessments to determine risks and identify ways to help keep our citizens safe. We assessed how to improve patient movement and exchange of medical personnel during a public health emergency response, ways to better share

medical countermeasures, and shared lessons learned on how to identify a biological organism. We also signed a Memorandum of Understanding in order to better communicate and share critical information prior to and during a response.

### **Trade Facilitation, Economic Growth, and Jobs**

*Under Beyond the Border, the United States and Canada have worked not only to enhance security for citizens of both countries, but also to better facilitate travel for all passengers. Key examples include:*

- To enhance our existing **trusted traveler programs**, we expanded benefits for NEXUS members, including providing access to the TSA Pre✓™ program as well as Global Entry. This increased enrollment in NEXUS to over 1.4 million members in 2016 compared to about 450,000 in 2011.
- In 2016, we published an **economic assessment of border fees**, which found border fees comprise only a small component of the overall border costs for the private sector.
- In 2016, the United States also launched the **Known Employer Pilot program**, which by pre-adjudicating participating employers, results in greater consistency in decision-making and helps employees in certain visa classifications enter the United States for work more quickly, thereby benefiting employers, employees, and adjudicators alike.
- To address a critical need in the preclearance environment, where U.S. preclearance operations at eight airports in Canada operate under an agreement which predates the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and lacks desired protections for our officers, our two countries signed a **new Agreement on Land, Rail, Marine, and Air Transport Preclearance (LRMA)** in March 2015. The LRMA updates the authorities for preclearance officers to reflect the current operating environment and allows for expansion to other modes of transportation and new locations. In 2016, the United States and Canada announced their intent to **expand preclearance to four specific sites** once the LRMA enters into force if the sites meet all required terms and conditions. The United States passed authorizing legislation in December 2016, and while we await Canada's passage of its authorizing legislation, we hope to move forward with new regulations in 2017 and begin implementation in 2018.
- In 2013, our countries **aligned their low-value thresholds** to \$2,500, thereby reducing transaction costs for trade by millions of dollars each year and allowing thousands of additional shipments to arrive at their destinations faster.
- We also improved our compatibility of **trusted trader programs**. Not only did we harmonize the requirements for U.S. Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT) and Canada's Partners in Protection (PIP) and develop a joint enrollment web portal to make the application into both programs faster and easier for companies in 2015, but, in addition, members now receive Free And Secure Trade (FAST) benefits to make cross-border trade even faster.

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

*At 5,525 miles, the United States-Canada land border is the longest in the world. Through **Beyond the Border** our two countries have worked to improve law enforcement coordination to reduce the ability of criminals to take advantage of our shared border, enhancing the security of both our countries. Key examples include:*

- CBP developed a **Capabilities Gap Analysis Process** that has mapped U.S. capabilities along the entire Northern Border and shared this methodology in 2015 with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). The two countries will continue to coordinate to further enhance domain awareness and the security of our shared border.
- In 2013, to help improve coordination on cross-border law enforcement, CBP and RCMP began testing a binational **radio interoperability system for law enforcement** in Detroit, Michigan, and Blaine, Washington. CBP added a location in Swanton, Vermont in 2015, and will complete its pilots in summer 2017, at which time it will assess whether to make the program permanent.
- In 2011, to increase security of **general aviation** across our shared border, the United States initiated an agreement with Canada that resulted in the integration of 22 Canadian radar sensors into our common operating picture.
- In 2012, the U.S. Coast Guard and RCMP expanded the existing **Shiprider** program, in which personnel jointly patrol shared waterways to detect and prevent criminal activity, including smuggling, trafficking, and terrorism to become permanently active in five locations: Vancouver/Blaine, Windsor/Detroit, Kingston/Alexandria Bay, Victoria/Port Angeles, and Niagara/Buffalo. These patrols serve as a deterrent to those who would attempt to use the shared waterways for illicit purposes.
- Our countries have also enhanced **radio interoperability for emergency responders**, including successfully testing cross-border emergency communication systems interoperability in 2013. This interoperability improves response coordination across the border during binational disasters. We continue to refine this capability by working to amend existing treaties to allow emergency responders to use their communications equipment deeper into the respective countries.

### **Critical Infrastructure and Cybersecurity**

*Although the United States and Canada have long shared infrastructure, **Beyond the Border** provided a framework to strengthen and enhance collaboration on both physical and cyber infrastructure that underpin everyday activities in both countries. Key examples include:*

- In November 2016, the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) working group finalized **The Canada-United States Mutual Assistance Concept of Operations in Response to a CBRNE Incident**. This document provides an overview of how Canada and the U.S. will coordinate mutual assistance requests related to major CBRNE events.

- The United States and Canada have completed two **Regional Resiliency Assessment Program (RRAP)** projects in Maine/New Brunswick and Alaska/Yukon and are in the process of planning and scoping a third focusing on the shared electrical grid in the Northeast. By jointly assessing vulnerabilities, the countries can now work together to address gaps and strengthen infrastructure in order to avoid large-scale failures in the future. This work builds upon the *Canada-United States Action Plan for Critical Infrastructure*, which focuses on building partnerships, improved information sharing and risk management.
- Since 2013, the United States and Canada have published three **Border Infrastructure Investment Plans** that detail major infrastructure upgrades at land border crossings and identify certain crossings as priorities for future investment. This work may feed into future U.S. border infrastructure prioritization discussions for both the northern and southern borders as we begin to change how we conceptualize and prioritize infrastructure investment.
- The United States and Canada have also developed the **Cybersecurity Action Plan** to regularize operational and policy cooperation on cybersecurity. Under this Action Plan, we have institutionalized an analyst exchange between the U.S. National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center and the Canadian Cyber Incident Response Centre to foster exchanges of “lessons learned,” and we are cooperating on automated indicator sharing to allow for rapid information exchange. U.S. and Canadian officials also now issue joint alerts and coordinate in advance of multilateral fora.

## Transparency

At the outset of the Beyond the Border initiative both governments committed to keep the public informed of our activities as much as possible and hold ourselves accountable for achieving results. Part of this commitment to transparency included publishing annual public reports on the status of deliverables, stakeholder consultations on cross-border business and trusted traders, and the release of reports on a wide range of topics. By providing stakeholders with more information on border processes and seeking their input on improvements, U.S. and Canadian agencies have been able to garner support for efforts and even identify new ones. For instance, consultations with stakeholders also have resulted in pilot projects to test new ideas, such as identifying a new way to track truck shipments of commercial goods that transit through the United States from a destination in Canada to another destination in Canada in 2016, as well as the United States testing in Canada truck cargo pre-inspection in 2013 and 2014.

## Next Steps

*Although much of the work outlined in the Action Plan has been accomplished since 2011, and with a number of critical milestones achieved in 2016, there is still more progress that can be made through the U.S.-Canada bilateral relationship. In the coming years we intend to build upon the lessons learned*

*and progress achieved under Beyond the Border, which has given our countries a deeper understanding of how we enhance our perimeter security and economic competitiveness to better address the shared threats within, at, and away from our borders. A few key examples include:*

- Further enhancing their trade relationship when the **U.S. Single Window**, a government-wide system for electronic collection, use, and dissemination of internal trade data, is fully implemented by the end of 2016. Once Single Window is implemented in the United States, we will be able to implement the common sets of required data elements for trusted traders negotiated in 2014.
- We also hope to expand our cooperation into new areas of the trade realm, including on cooperating with our Canadian partners to protect our citizens against **copyright-infringing goods** that may be harmful if imported into our countries and discussions on how to make our countries more competitive in the age of e-commerce with a harmonized **de minimis** level for imposing customs duties.
- We also see an opportunity to collaborate on interests that we have mutually identified, such as combating **human trafficking**, **sharing information on known sex offenders**, and further enhancing and integrating our work on **cybersecurity**.
- The past five years, U.S. and Canadian officials have held ourselves accountable for deliverables and built institutional structures and relationships founded upon transparency to our stakeholders. We have successfully published five implementation reports detailing our progress, and we intend that this tradition of **transparency and accountability** will continue as our initiatives evolve and expand and we pursue our shared vision.

The United States values its partnership with Canada and the close collaboration we have fostered over the past six years. We are confident that our partnership will continue beyond the successes achieved through the Beyond the Border initiative and look forward to further collaboration on finding innovative ways to simultaneously enhance our mutual security and facilitate legitimate travel and trade and the enduring ties between our two countries.