

waste. In addition, the Department of Homeland Security has been investigating the screening process for municipal solid waste trucks entering the United States from Canada on the basis of the security threat posed by those vehicles. Singling out garbage trucks for special inspection could cause serious border

delays and set a dangerous precedent. Canada continues to encourage the United States to work cooperatively to manage waste in an environmentally sound manner, without regard to borders and in a manner consistent with the Canada-U.S. Agreement on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste.

ENHANCED REPRESENTATION INITIATIVE

Canada's fall 2002 Speech from the Throne called for an increase in our country's consular presence across the United States in order to expand fair and secure trade and commerce.

Shortly thereafter, the February 2003 budget identified funding for an initiative designed to bolster the Government of Canada's ability to promote advocacy and business development in the United States within the context of an increasingly integrated North American economy.

Less than a year later, the Enhanced Representation Initiative was introduced. The ERI enables Canada to take advantage of opportunities and innovations in the U.S. market, while recognizing emerging geographic centres of political and economic power in the south and southwest. Defending Canada's existing interests, increasing business development and investment, and attracting science and technology (objectives that are all critical to Canadian prosperity) require resources on the ground to build effective market intelligence networks and relationships with influential players.

Reflecting a "whole of government" approach, the ERI is a horizontal partnership of eight federal departments and agencies. Joining the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade are Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions, Industry Canada, the National Research Council, and Western Economic Diversification. Thanks to the synergy created through the links between these key partners, the ERI is able to focus resources on the Government of Canada's stated priorities and to leverage shared resources on behalf of business.

The ERI has increased Canada's representation in the United States from 15 to 22 offices. The consulate in Miami has been upgraded to the level of consulate general, with San Francisco scheduled for its own upgrade in 2005. A new consulate general has also been established in Denver, and new consulates are opening in other U.S. regions of trade and political interest such as Houston, San Diego, Raleigh-Durham, Phoenix, Philadelphia and Anchorage.

The ERI partnership also manages a network of 20 honorary consuls to facilitate advocacy and business development goals in key U.S. cities where Canada does not have a diplomatic presence. Eight of these honorary consuls have already been appointed to serve in Cleveland (Ohio), Memphis (Tennessee), New Orleans (Louisiana), Omaha (Nebraska), Pittsburgh (Pennsylvania), Portland (Maine), Portland (Oregon) and Richmond (Virginia).

Additional positions in various missions across the United States further build upon Canada's capacity to advocate its interests in vital economic and political matters.