

Our first priority is to invest in the infrastructure that will support and amplify the impact of the NEXUS and FAST programs.

Technology can play an important role in expediting traffic in a secure manner. We have invested in computer simulation modelling to optimize our infrastructure investments, advanced information systems to improve traffic mobility and high-energy gamma and X-ray machines to detect dangerous materials.

### **Co-ordination and Information Sharing in the Enforcement of these Objectives**

September 11 demonstrated that no country is immune from the threat of terrorism. Canada and the United States are committed to working together to prevent, detect, apprehend and prosecute terrorists and other criminals. While our two countries already co-operate closely on many law enforcement initiatives, we are strengthening this co-operation to meet the demands of the new security reality.

We are improving the speed with which we can share information through initiatives such as the implementation of an electronic system for criminal records information exchange, including fingerprints, that will be in place by September 2002. We have also stepped up intelligence co-operation with Canada participating in the U.S. Foreign Terrorist Tracking Task Force.

To strengthen our co-ordinated response, we continue to expand and enhance the binational integrated border enforcement efforts that proved effective even before September 11. To better facilitate this existing partnership, we have created six Integrated Border Enforcement Teams (IBETs) to act as hubs for co-ordinated enforcement efforts across our shared border. And though our local officers already co-ordinate throughout the border on a daily basis, our goal is to field a total of 14 IBETs over the next 18 months.

We are using Project NorthStar — a grassroots organization of law enforcement professionals from the federal, state, provincial, and local levels on both sides of the border — to provide a forum for co-ordinating communications, intelligence, joint operations, and prosecutions.

Additionally, through our Shared Border Accord process and the Canada–U.S. Cross-Border Crime Forum, we are working to share information and co-ordinate efforts toward fighting terrorism and crime.

We are also conducting joint counter-terrorism training exercises to strengthen the capacities of public safety planners and emergency responders. A major joint counter-terrorism exercise is scheduled for May 2003.