



THE CANADA-U.S. BORDER: SECURE AND OPEN TO TRADE

ALL DAY, EVERY DAY

- The Canada-U.S. border has been open every day and all day since September 11. Contrary to some media coverage, the border was *never* closed.
- Traffic flows are somewhat lower than pre-September 11, but occasional border delays still occur, especially at major ports of entry in Southern Ontario and British Columbia.
- Border wait times are updated every four hours and can be checked on the Internet at www.ccr-aadrc.gc.ca/customs/general/times/menu-e.html
- On both sides of the border, extraordinary measures have been put in place to deal with the delays resulting from the heightened level of vigilance.
- Canadian and U.S. agencies working at the border have increased the use of overtime and part-time staff, cancelled leave and reassigned resources from less critical activities to ensure security at the border and the continued flow of legitimate travellers and goods.

TOWARD A SMARTER BORDER

- The Canadian government has provided US\$65 million to Canada Customs to proceed rapidly with the implementation of new risk-based initiatives. This will be used for new technology to enhance sharing of intelligence information, screening procedures for front-line officers at the border, and the hiring of additional customs officers.
- Canada is committed to looking at different technologies to develop a "smart border" that would fast track the flow of legitimate travellers.
- Several initiatives are under way to create more effective and enhanced monitoring at the Canada-U.S. border ports of entry. These include joint immigration-security interviews, the use of more advanced information technology, including electronic passport scanners and licence plate readers, and improved Canada-U.S. information exchanges.
- Legislation being considered by Parliament includes measures for the expedited processing of shipments coming into Canada by preapproved, low-risk businesses.
- Canada Customs has co-operated closely with U.S. Customs, even performing export checks on trucks leaving Canada to assist in reducing delays.

