

- increased Customs staffing at points of entry into Canada for both travellers and commercial goods;
- new technology to help the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency facilitate the passage of goods and people at border-crossing points;
- new Canada - U.S. multi-agency Integrated Border Enforcement Teams to co-ordinate intelligence and enforcement efforts along the Canada-U.S. border;
- advanced information technology to help Customs officers screen travellers arriving at airports and other border points; and
- better equipment for detecting explosives, firearms and other dangers without delaying the flow of legitimate commerce or tourism.

Recommendation 7

That the Government of Canada test and implement, where feasible, advanced technologies in its border processing operations. Concerns surrounding Canadians' privacy should be respected in formulating these plans.

The Government of Canada recognizes that technology holds significant potential for enhancing border efficiency and security and reducing border delays. Several departments are actively involved in the search for and testing of new technologies. The Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) action item from the Smart Border Declaration commits the Canadian and U.S. Governments to "deploy interoperable technologies in support of other initiatives to facilitate the secure movement of goods and people, such as transponder applications and electronic container seals."

Transport Canada has undertaken a number of initiatives in the area of ITS. These include the identification of joint projects, an inventory of security technologies, a commercial vehicle operations network study, and ongoing cooperation with the U.S. Department of Transportation on ITS architecture and standards.

Recommendation 8

That the Government of Canada work with its U.S. counterparts to resolve the issues delaying the development of joint border facilities and to accelerate plans for their development in locations in which such implementation is cost-effective.

Joint facilities are a modern method of managing our shared border. They permit border inspection agencies to pool resources, to enhance the security of their officers, and to more efficiently distribute their presences along the border.