

The prairie provinces and states see a smaller number of crossings, but are also important trade corridors, especially for grains and livestock.

The majority of vehicle crossings take place in choke points along the Ontario-Michigan, the Ontario-New York, and the British Columbia-Washington borders. These crossings are located on narrow slips of land surrounded by the Great Lakes or between the Pacific Ocean and the Cascade Mountains. There is also substantial traffic in the border crossings between New Brunswick and Maine and between Quebec and northern New York, Maine and Vermont. Each of these congested border areas needs significant infrastructure improvements. Several of the key crossings are bridges or tunnels, which complicates expansion.

Global integration and competition are pushing us toward a seamless border. Yet at the same time, open borders and modern transportation systems provide transnational organized crime organizations reliable and affordable means for conducting illicit activities worldwide. We must be vigilant and cooperate closely to prevent these groups from taking advantage of this openness and playing on the differences between our policies and procedures to move arms, drugs and people to and through our two countries. Improvements in strategic controls away from the border, and cooperation in alleviating the sources of global threats including off our shores, could remove much of this advantage and decrease pressures on our internal border.

The information revolution and advancements in communication techniques transcend the border. Flows in information and ideas, and the emergence of an electronic economy hold