

Some CUSP participants suggested that Canada and the United States should be trying to remove controls from the land border and instead move them out to a common perimeter. They urged federal governments to work together at managing flows into the region at this common perimeter and to address the global sources of instability that spawn illegal flows directed at both countries.

Inspection agencies stressed that they still have a mandate from federal governments to enforce our respective laws on the border, while using risk management to minimize congestion. Cooperation between Canadian and U.S. law enforcement agencies at the border continues to be excellent and a necessary component of thwarting cross-border criminal activity. These goals are complementary. We can make our internal border more open as we coordinate more closely on the perimeter.

Governments, communities, the private sector and NGOs must work together to address the challenges before us. These groups are already active in a number of binational fora focused on improving border management. Many CUSP participants asked for greater strategic direction in border management, believing that governments should move boldly in implementing border management principles. Our shared ecological zones also require a cooperative approach. We breathe the same air, drink the same water and share the same species of wildlife along the border.

The management of these cross-cutting international issues demands coordinated and cooperative action by many agencies from both sides of the border up to and including integrated horizontal solutions. The public expects it, and our global competitiveness depends on it. What needs to be done?

- CUSP should continue to meet, primarily but not exclusively in border communities, to solicit the views of stakeholders