

border management agencies.

Recommendation 26

The Government should ensure that the number of customs and immigration officers at the border matches current requirements, given the new security demands imposed on these officials. Training and equipment available to border officers should be enhanced.

The Government worked quickly in the immediate aftermath of September 11, 2001 to respond to the new pressures placed on the border. For example, the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency (CCRA) received additional funding of up to \$87 million to improve its capacity to implement border initiatives. Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) received \$49 million to fast track the permanent resident card for new immigrants, improve front-end screening of refugees, increase detention and deportation ability and hire up to 100 new staff to enforce upgraded security.

Of the \$1.2 billion allocated in Budget 2001 for border-related measures, \$443 million was targeted for measures to enhance border security while improving the flow of goods and people between Canada and the US. This included increased staffing at points of entry into Canada for both travellers and commercial goods, as well as new technology to help CCRA facilitate the passage of goods and people at border-crossing points. CCRA has put in place over 295 employees to enhance security through their programs while CIC added additional employees to assist with the Advanced Passenger Information (API) program. Additionally, CIC has hired 12 officers for Public Security and Anti-Terrorism. These officers have been placed at strategic ports of entry across Canada.

CCRA is investing approximately \$110 million, allocated over a five-year period, to purchase state-of-the-art contraband detection technology. CIC has spent \$5.7 million for 54 Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) Live Scan machines which allow immigration personnel at ports of entry to obtain automated fingerprints to assist in the identification of clients. Both customs and immigration agencies are committed to reviewing their needs at the border and ensuring that there are sufficient staff available who receive appropriate training to meet the heightened security demands.

Recommendation 27

The Government should thoroughly review the set of customs regulations currently administered by customs officials within the Canadian Customs and Revenue Agency, with a view to their modernization. Border officials should be fully versed in any resulting changes so that they can deal more effectively with today's border realities.

