

provided an opportunity to exchange views and draw upon the expertise of border stakeholders. These border communities were eager to address border challenges, and many of them have a head start on federal governments in developing creative solutions to local problems.

CUSP participants at these meetings wanted consistent, transparent border management by governments on both sides of the border that avoided duplication. They valued the border as a geographic and symbolic line that defined our respective spaces, but wanted it to be "seamless." Harmonization of standards, processes and policies could contribute to this goal of seamlessness. Many participants suggested that more resources applied strategically were needed at the border. Others questioned whether resources would ever be able to keep up with increases in flows, while still others called for a re-thinking of traditional border management.

Risk management was seen as an effective way to expedite low-risk travellers and goods while focusing limited resources on those more apt to pose problems. For example, programs utilizing smart-card technologies or alternative accounting methods could have significant positive impact. "Intelligent Transportation Systems" offer potential for more efficient use of cross-border transportation networks.

A number of CUSP participants recommended looking at ways to move enforcement activities away from the border, thus reducing pressure on the border itself. Suggestions ranged from shifting inland the variety of paperwork currently processed at the border, to moving safety inspections and export controls as far from the border as practicable.