

Executive Summary

The *Canada-U.S. Partnership Forum* (CUSP) was launched in October 1999 by Prime Minister Chrétien and President Clinton to promote high-level dialogue among governments, border communities and stakeholders on border management. The Prime Minister and the President endorsed three guiding principles of border management: streamline, harmonize and collaborate on border policies and management; expand co-operation to increase efficiencies in customs, immigration, law enforcement and environmental protection at and beyond the border; and collaborate on threats outside Canada and the United States.

Not only our border communities, but all of Canada and the United States have much at stake in ensuring that our common border runs smoothly, that the 99% of trade and travellers that are legal can cross the border easily, and that we can focus enforcement instead on the remaining 1% of cross-border activity. With US\$1.2 billion in trade crossing the border every day and 200 million travellers (two-way) crossing each year, "getting it right" is critical to both countries. The Canadian and U.S. governments are committed to creating a more open border over the next 10-15 years.

CUSP meetings held on April 11-12, 2000 in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario and in Buffalo, New York, and on June 22-23, 2000 in Vancouver, British Columbia and in Blaine, Washington,