

the Free and Secure Trade (FAST) initiative facilitates the efficient flow of low-risk, pre-approved goods. NEXUS allows Canadian and US customs and immigration authorities to concentrate on high risk travellers while allowing pre-approved frequent travellers simplified border crossings. Integrated Border Enforcement Teams (IBETS) made up of police, immigrations and customs officials are working to combat cross-border organized crime and track terrorist threats. A Canada-US Critical Infrastructure Protection Steering Committee has been established to consider and oversee cross-border activities related to energy, telecommunications, transportation, agriculture and food, and defence. In December 2002, Canada and the US also agreed to a bilateral program of cooperation on biosecurity matters.

***Promoting Canada's security through defence cooperation.*** Established in 1940, the Permanent Joint Board on Defence (PJBD) is a key bilateral forum which provides for critical senior military and diplomatic contact. A strong pillar of the relationship, the North American Aerospace Defence Command (NORAD) is a bi-national military command established in 1958 to monitor and defend North American airspace. In 2001, NORAD was renewed for a further 5 years. In December 2002, Canada and the US announced the creation of bi-national Planning Group, co-located with NORAD, that will enhance our ability to respond to primarily maritime- as well as land-based attacks and threats by terrorists or others, and will facilitate bi-national military support to civilian authorities in either country if necessary in the event of a disaster or other major emergency.

***Protecting our shared environment.*** The *Boundary Waters Treaty* of 1909 established the International Joint Commission which continues to assist Canada and the US in jointly managing and protecting our shared water resources as well as finding solutions to environmental problems. Canada and the US announced the development of a new border air quality strategy on January 6, 2003 which will create new cooperative pilot projects and build upon the 1991 *Canada-US Air Quality Agreement*. In 2001, Canada and the US created a Working Group on Climate Change Cooperation, through which we are intensifying cooperation on mitigating the impact of green house gas emissions, on science, measurement and research in several key sectors such as energy, transportation, agriculture and land use.

***Projecting greater awareness of Canada.*** In the 2002 *Speech from the Throne*, the Government stated it would "increase its consular presence to expand fair and secure trade and commerce, and to brand Canada in the United States." *Budget 2003* provides funding over 5 years to bolster Canada's ability to actively engage at local and regional levels across the US. Academic exchanges continue to promote a better US understanding of Canada. The bi-national Fulbright Program provides grants for individuals to study/lecture in the other country, and the Association for Canadian Studies

