

At 5,500 miles, Canada and the United States share the world's longest non-militarized border. This border is not a "security fence," a tightly controlled or highly fortified physical barrier, but rather a clearly demarcated legal line. In terms of "people traffic," over 200 million two-way border crossings took place in 1999 at 130 border-crossing points. On the Canadian side of the border, there are approximately 350 Citizenship and Immigration Canada agents and 1,310 Canada Customs and Revenue Agency inspectors. On the U.S. side, there are approximately 700 U.S. Customs inspectors, 512 Immigration and Naturalization Service inspectors and 310 Border Patrol agents. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (supported by the Canadian Coast Guard) and the U.S. Coast Guard also monitor our maritime border on the Great Lakes and the Atlantic and Pacific coasts.

The air and sea form part of our shared border. In the air, there are hundreds of flights per day between Canada and the United States. On water, the Great Lakes straddle the industrial heartland of both countries, the St. Lawrence Seaway provides a shared transportation system, and there are numerous border crossings each day by commercial and pleasure craft. Our busiest border crossings traverse water boundaries, by tunnel or bridge, between the province of Ontario and the states of Michigan and New York.

The air and water are also areas of shared environmental concern, as pollution from one country crosses freely into the other. Our shared ecological zones require a cooperative approach to management. Canadians and Americans breathe the same air, drink the same water and share the same species of wildlife along the border. Federal, state and provincial agencies share responsibility for the stewardship of regional