



CHAPTER 3

Current Issues

Canada-U.S. Border

There is a long history of Canada-U.S. border cooperation based on principles of risk management, consultation, effectiveness and efficiency. In recent years, Canada and the United States have made significant commitments to new border security initiatives, including the Shared Border Accord (1995), the Smart Border Declaration and Action Plan (2001), and the Security and Prosperity Partnership (2005). In addition, we have successfully formalized several facilitation programs to identify low-risk travellers and goods.

The Government of Canada is working with key Canadian allies to advance border solutions through interdepartmental, trilateral and bilateral working groups, close monitoring of the work of the North American Competitiveness Council, and an assessment of the Border Wait-Time Management Project. We are also improving measurement, monitoring and analysis of the border environment. For

example, we are using better metrics to measure delays at crossings and conducting timely economic analysis.

However, Canada continues to face challenges flowing from some unilateral U.S. security initiatives that seek to secure the northern border. This issue is significant for Canada, given our integrated economic relationship with the U.S. and our people-to-people ties. Increased border security has increased the costs of cross-border trading for many companies and may affect future investment decisions.

Recently introduced U.S. security measures—for example, the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative, the collection of agricultural inspection fees, increased inspections as part of risk-management programs, and increased security resources and surveillance—together signal significant compliance costs for our integrated manufacturing and transportation sectors. They also potentially devalue the attractiveness of risk-management trade and