

# Canada-US Border Requirements Impede Trade and Reduce North American Competitiveness: Border Coalition's Fourth Report

**OTTAWA** – Progress has been made getting the border “right” since 9/11, but the 49<sup>th</sup> parallel remains a barrier to trade and investment as well as an impediment to international competitiveness for both Canada and the US, according to the latest Report by the Coalition for Secure and Trade-Efficient Borders.

*Rethinking our Borders: A New North American Partnership*, the fourth report of the 55-member organization **at the 49<sup>th</sup> parallel is also one that has witnessed a rapid increase in the introduction of regulatory initiatives and programs designed to protect the border, by agencies in both Canada and the U.S.**, recognizes progress made to date, as well as tackles the ongoing border problems, and offers recommendations to governments to ensure that North American business can enhance its international competitiveness in light of the needed but costly new requirements imposed at the border.

On the positive side, the report recognizes the successful creation of Integrated Border Enforcement Teams and the US VISIT program to facilitate entry and exit of visitors, are cited among others.

Today, there are now at least 44 agencies between the two countries with a level of jurisdiction over the shared border. The results are troubling:

- **Logistics at the Canada-U.S. border has become a competitive disadvantage for North American business.**
- **Customs rules are more complex today than ever before and are being enforced differently by different inspectors at different crossings.**
- **Paperwork and information requirements for border inspections are increasingly onerous.**
- **At several key crossings there is limited or no access to dedicated lanes for commercial vehicles in the FAST program.**
- **Business travelers still face increasing delays and complications at the Canada-U.S. border.**

The report focuses on three areas – customs and border management; security and immigration, and transportation and infrastructure – where improvements must be made immediately in order to reduce impediments to the flow of goods and legitimate travelers across the border.

It calls for a renewed sense of urgency on improving the border through a strategic assessment of priorities against the changes and initiatives of the four years since 9/11; a focused approach to enhancing a North American security perimeter; the introduction of a Canada-U.S. “border pass” with biometric identifiers and immediate investments in infrastructure, especially in the Windsor-Detroit corridor.

Full copies of the report can be found at [www.cme-mec.ca](http://www.cme-mec.ca), [www.chamber.ca](http://www.chamber.ca) and [www.cfib.ca](http://www.cfib.ca) .

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