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Despite the importance of training for improving efficiency, professionalism and compliance with constitutional and human rights standards, we know little about how border officers learn their trade. Based on interviews with Canadian border officers posted at the land border in Ontario and Québec, this paper analyses recent changes in their professional socialization particularly covering (1) the introduction of a national hiring process in hiring and (2) the remodelling of officer college training. If the CBSA attempted to remove port of entry (POE) influence in the appointment of officers by standardizing its hiring process, hiring still presents local challenges. For instance, on-the-job training remains subject to local POE variations (size, subculture, region-based economic and security specificities). In addition, it appears that both Customs College curriculum—which now puts emphasis on developing enforcement skills in recruits— and the stressful pressures it places on trainees contribute to the emergence of an enforcement orientation in rookie officers. Their attachment to a policing sensibility is at the centre of a new generational approach to borderwork brought by rookies to ports of entry.