



**BORDER GOVERNANCE:  
A CANADIAN PERSPECTIVE  
BORDERS IN GLOBALIZATION**

**OTTAWA  
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# CANADA-US BORDER GOVERNANCE

Eight observations.....

- #1: Canada-US border governance has been high priority of Canada-US bilateral agenda since at least 1995
- #2: This governance has been dealing with three meta-issues (a) border implications of NAFTA (b) US concern over illegal immigration and (c) growing US preoccupation with homeland security
- #3: High priority for Canada to be proactive on promoting mechanisms of border governance
- #4: The four phases of Canada-US border governance:
  - 1995-2000 Agency agreements and the CUSP
  - 2001-2002 Smart Border Accord
  - 2004-2009 Security and Prosperity Partnership (and the bilateral interregnum)
  - 2011-now Beyond the Border Action Plan<sup>1</sup>



# CANADA-US BORDER GOVERNANCE

- #5: Each phase has made incremental progress and sets the foundation for the next phase.
- #6: Border governance is more effective if (a) central leadership (b) defined program of deliverables (c) stakeholder engagement
- #7: Central leadership is fine but better if supported by (a) regional innovation and (b) ongoing interagency mechanisms
- #8: Easier to tango à deux but let's not forget the macarena



# THE BTB ACTION PLAN: THE EXPERIENCE

- Essential equation: *“By working together at the perimeter, Canada and the US can look at steps to expedite legitimate trade and traffic across our common border”*.
- Detailed Action Plan with 32 initiatives and timelines
- Leaders commitment
- New border governance: Annual Executive Steering Committee, composed of PCO and White House, and senior officials of border agencies to review progress and prepare annual Implementation Report
- Stakeholder engagement



# BTB MOVING THE YARD STICKS: THE SECURITY EQUATION

- “Significant strides to developing and deepening a security perimeter”.
- Common approach to screening of travelers
- Immigration Information Sharing Treaty
- Entry/Exit
- National security cooperation
- Mutual recognition of air cargo security programs and baggage screening



# BTB MOVING THE YARDSTICKS: THE ECONOMIC EQUATION

- New investments in border infrastructure
- Dramatic increase in membership in trusted traveller programs
- Comprehensive Preclearance Agreement
- Single Windows.



# BTB: FORWARD PLAN

- Ensure the implementation of all existing initiative
- New initiatives to advance the original ambition of BTB
- Build on and advance foundations
- Regional and stakeholder engagement still critical
- Rolling plan