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Letter from the Assistant Commissioner: The Northern Border

I’m Pete Ladowicz, Assistant Commissioner for CBP’s Office of Congressional Affairs. While our southern border receives the lion’s share of media attention, this issue of *CBP Access* focuses on our border with Canada—the longest international border in the world. Every day, approximately 400,000 people and more than \$1.6 billion in goods cross our northern border, and every day more than 3,600 CBP officers, 2,200 Border Patrol agents, 180 CBP agriculture specialists, and 230 Air and Marine personnel are protecting this border, facilitating lawful trade and travel, and upholding our national security.

This past summer, the Department of Homeland Security published its [Northern Border Strategy](#), to strengthen these efforts and strengthen cross-border community resilience. Together with our interagency partners and Canadian counterparts, we will continue to identify and mitigate threats while preserving prosperity and strengthening our hemisphere.

Commissioner Outlines U.S.—Canada Trade Relations, Priorities



Last month, CBP Commissioner Kevin McAleenan highlighted the Department of Homeland Security’s northern border to members of the Canadian/American Border Trade Alliance. The alliance is an association of businesses, private and public sector organizations, and individuals involved in cross-border trade, border crossing, transportation, and tourism.

Issued in June, the strategy aims to secure the northern border against threats, support trade and travel and strengthen community resilience. He cited numerous initiatives where CBP uses that strategy to meet its trade and enforcement goals.

New technology will eventually allow trucks to clear the border without stopping, increasing efficiency and safety by keeping drivers in their vehicles. “We’re now testing equipment that can provide good, clear images,” he said. “This could be a game changer.” Cross-border trade can also be improved, he continued, through shared facilities that not only saves resources, but also allows trucks to be inspected just once.

Imaging technology is also central to a pilot program to screen rail cars. Under an international agreement, Canada Border Services Agency uses U.S. imaging equipment to inspect northbound rail cars.

Cross-border transit will also benefit from CBP’s goal of electronic manifests. The change will significantly reduce wait times at ports of entry. “This is a massive step,” he said. “We expect to have electronic manifests for all trucks by next year.”

In addition to the strategy’s trade initiatives, the commissioner commended the U.S. and Canadian partnership to jointly pursue importers who evade antidumping and duty regulations, particularly steel from China.

Enforcement partnerships are critical as trends, resources and priorities in international trade shift. For instance, e-commerce has resulted in “a four-fold increase in international mail. “We expect 120 million express bills by the end of this year,” he said. That’s up by 10 million from fiscal 2017, when CBP processed 110 million bills.

He also told the group that CBP is working diligently to hire more trade specialists and streamline the process. “We’ve reduced our hiring time by 50 percent and we will meet our goal this year.”

Three years ago, in another partnership, the U.S. and Canada signed the Land, Rail, Marine and Air Transport agreement. The agreement will expand preclearance locations, increase services at existing locations and create the legal framework for reciprocal procedures.

The conference happened to take place as President Trump Monday announced that Canada joined an international trade agreement with the U.S. and Mexico that will be called the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement. The president said the accord opens markets for U.S. farmers and manufacturers, reduces trade barriers and increases global competition.

For more information, please visit [CBP.gov](#) or contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.

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CBP.gov/Careers

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The Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA) serves as the single point of contact within CBP for communications between CBP and Congress.

OCA is committed to addressing any question or concern you may have related to CBP’s complex mission. Please contact us:

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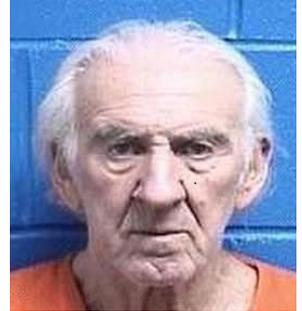
Please visit CBP’s [Congressional Resources](#) webpage for frequently asked questions, news and events, and other CBP resources.

Fugitive Apprehended by Border Patrol After Nearly 30 Years

In April of this year, Border Patrol agents from the Eureka Station apprehended a man on a felony warrant on dangerous drugs charges at the United States/Canada border near Rexford, Montana.

Agents apprehended the man after receiving information about two suspicious individuals emerging from the trees approximately a quarter mile from the border. In the early hours of April 15, agents found the pair and questioned them regarding their presence in the remote location.

Through questioning, agents determined both had illegally entered the United States. One of the individuals was a Canadian citizen, who agents processed for removal, while the other individual, Jacob Moritz, was a naturalized U.S. citizen with an outstanding arrest warrant out of the Southern District of New York. Agents turned Moritz over to the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office and the U.S. Marshals Service later took him into custody. Moritz's warrant stemmed from a 1989 indictment charging him with various counts related to the large-scale smuggling of marijuana, hashish, and heroin. For more information, please visit CBP.gov or contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.



CBP's Statement on Canada's Legalization of Marijuana and Crossing the Border

U.S. Customs and Border Protection enforces the laws of the United States and U.S. laws will not change following Canada's legalization of marijuana. Requirements for international travelers wishing to enter the United States are governed by and conducted in accordance with U.S. Federal Law, which supersedes state laws. Although medical and recreational marijuana may be legal in some U.S. States and Canada, the sale, possession, production and distribution of marijuana or the facilitation of the aforementioned remain illegal under U.S. federal law. Consequently, crossing the border or arriving at a U.S. port of entry in violation of this law may result in denied admission, seizure, fines, and apprehension.

CBP officers are thoroughly trained on admissibility factors and the Immigration and Nationality Act, which broadly governs the admissibility of travelers into the United States. Determinations about admissibility and whether any regulatory or criminal enforcement is appropriate are made by a CBP officer based on the facts and circumstances known to the officer at the time.

Generally, any arriving alien who is determined to be a drug abuser or addict, or who is convicted of, admits having committed, or admits committing, acts which constitute the essential elements of a violation of (or an attempt or conspiracy to violate) any law or regulation of a State, the United States, or a foreign country relating to a controlled substance, is inadmissible to the United States.

A Canadian citizen working in or facilitating the proliferation of the legal marijuana industry in Canada, coming to the U.S. for reasons unrelated to the marijuana industry will generally be admissible to the U.S. however, if a traveler is found to be coming to the U.S. for reason related to the marijuana industry, they may be deemed inadmissible.

CBP officers are the nation's first line of defense in preventing the illegal importation of narcotics, including marijuana. U.S. federal law prohibits the importation of marijuana and CBP officers will continue to enforce that law.

What's the Best Trusted Traveler Program for Frequent Travel Between the U.S. and Canada?

For frequent travel between the U.S. and Canada, NEXUS is your best match.

Benefits of NEXUS include:

- Expedited pedestrian/vehicle entry into the U.S. or Canada
- Expedited processing into the U.S. or Canada following an international flight
- Access to TSA TSA Pre-✓® expedited security lanes at airports within the U.S. and U.S. territories



- Receive expedited passage at NEXUS-dedicated lanes
- Utilize Global Entry airport kiosks
- If arriving by sea, reporting arrival into the United States and Canada by calling a marine telephone reporting center

Apply Now!

Whatever your travel needs, the Department of Homeland Security can help you move through the line at the airport or port of entry. These programs provide modified screening for pre-approved members, improve security by being more efficient during screenings, and facilitate legitimate trade and travel.

Apply for NEXUS or another Trusted Traveler program online at CBP.gov. If you have questions, contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.

Hunters Caught in Vermont Illegally Crossing Missisquoi Bay

U.S. Border Patrol agents from the Swanton Station fined two hunters who illegally entered the United States from Canada by boat.

Swanton Station agents were contacted by a Franklin County Sheriff's marine unit working Operation Stonegarden on Missisquoi Bay in Alburgh, Vermont.

The deputies reported that they had encountered a vessel with two men that made an improper entry into the United States from Canada. The men were also in possession of three shotguns and several waterfowl. The deputies escorted the vessel to the Swanton Border Patrol boat dock where Border Patrol agents interviewed the men.

Agents issued the men, who were found to be United States citizens, a civil penalty of \$5,000 for violation of reporting procedures under U.S. Code Title 19. The shotguns were seized by agents for violation of 19 USC 1595. A Vermont game warden also assisted the agents and issued both men a summons for illegal transportation of waterfowl crossing the international boundary. The game birds were seized and the men were released after being advised of the proper reporting procedures.

"This is a perfect example of how important our partnerships with local law enforcement are," said Swanton Station Patrol agent in charge Matthew Sherman. "Collaboration with state, local, tribal and federal law enforcement agencies allows us to multiply our efforts in securing the border." Learn more at CBP.gov or contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.