

## **JOINT STATEMENT**

**FROM I.E.CANADA, CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS INC. AND  
CANADIAN FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS (CFIB)**

**RE: ENHANCING SECURITY AND COMMERCIAL TRAFFIC  
FLOW AT THE PEACE BRIDGE**

I.E.Canada and the Canadian Federation of Independent Business represent the interests of thousands of importers and exporters who depend on trucking companies to move freight across the Canada-U.S. border in a secure and trade efficient manner.

We are pleased to be here today to participate in this stakeholders' meeting concerning commercial prescreening and a possible pilot on full preclearance at the Peace Bridge.

In our discussions with members and friends in the trucking industry, we know that our bridges to the U.S. (especially the Peace Bridge) are prone to long vehicle line ups as a result of infrastructure constraints and delays in processing, coupled with the ever growing volume of trade.

I.E.Canada and the CFIB believe that all the stakeholders in the trade community should be reviewing options to expedite commercial traffic and protect the border infrastructure from terrorists.

While we have concerns about pre-screening and ultimately preclearance, we will require greater clarity from government officials to ensure we fully understand the implications of any proposal before it is introduced. For example, we do not want a pre-screening option if it requires our carriers to make additional stops before crossing the border, likewise with preclearance.

Obviously, we want to see a cross-border system that stresses security, efficiency and honours those carriers in the FAST, PIP & C-TPAT programs. We want to take a step forward not backwards. We clearly support the opinions expressed by the trucking and customs brokerage community.

We look forward to further consultations with the trade community and we would fully support measures like pre-screening and full preclearance provided these programs clearly enhance the flow of goods across our borders while recognizing all steps that must be taken to protect the infrastructure that joins our two countries.