

Border Security

Working Together to Safeguard Our Shared Border

Canada and the United States are committed to safeguarding our shared border, the longest in the world. This vital corridor, used by approximately 400,000 people and facilitating \$2.5 billion worth of goods and services trade daily, is protected 24/7, 365 days a year. U.S. and Canadian law enforcement agencies collaborate closely, using advanced technology and shared intelligence to significantly reduce illegal migration, deter illicit movement of drugs, such as fentanyl, firearms and other goods, and protect the North American perimeter. Recently announced resources for Canadian border and law enforcement agencies will further strengthen border integrity by increasing tools and capacity to combat illegal activity. **A secure Canadian border is a secure U.S. border.**

Canada Bolsters Border Security

In December 2024, Canada unveiled an action plan to enhance security and continue to strengthen its immigration systems focussing on five pillars:

1. Detecting and Disrupting the Fentanyl Trade

- New artificial intelligence and enhanced imaging tools like portable X-ray machines and mobile examination vehicles to detect illegal drugs.
- New canine teams and 100 new chemical detection tools at high-risk ports of entry.
- Creation of a drug profiling center supporting 2,000 investigations annually.
- New unit to monitor and act against precursor chemicals, supply chains and distribution channels.

2. Significant New Tools for Law Enforcement

- New Aerial Intelligence Task Force with helicopters, drones, and surveillance towers.
- Expanded mandates for port facilities to support export inspections.
- Enhanced capacity and capabilities to target organized crime and fentanyl trafficking.

3. Enhancing Operational Coordination

- Creation of Canada-U.S. Joint Strike Force to combat transnational organized crime.
- Three new regional hubs (federal, provincial, and local law enforcement) to intercept organized crime and illegal drugs.

4. Increasing Information Sharing

- Build on information and intelligence sharing between Canada, the U.S., and international partners to intercept high-risk individuals and goods of interest.

5. Minimizing Unnecessary Border Volumes

- End temporary residents “flagpoling” to receive immigration services at the border.
- Strengthen control over immigration documents.
- New restrictions on countries not facilitating the rapid return of their citizens.

Combating Drug Trafficking

Fentanyl trafficking and the overdose epidemic impact both the United States and Canada. In 2023, the United States had 27.4 opioid-related overdose deaths per 100,000 people, while Canada saw 21.3 per 100,000. This shared challenge has tragic consequences in Canadian and American communities, making joint initiatives like the North American Drug Dialogue crucial to disrupt drug movement.

Canada is not a significant source of fentanyl for the United States. In 2024, U.S. border officials seized only 43 pounds of fentanyl at the Canadian border, compared to 21,000 pounds at the Mexican border. Canada lists fentanyl precursor chemicals under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, enabling stronger action against illegal importation. The United States and Canada face the shared challenge of precursors coming from China, which we jointly tackle through the Joint Action Plan on Opioids and the Trilateral Fentanyl Committee to deter the global supply of illicit fentanyl and its precursors before they reach the Western Hemisphere.

Preventing Firearms Smuggling

Canadian and U.S. officials collaborate closely through the Cross Border Crime Forum and the Cross-Border Firearms Task Force to prevent firearms and other illegal substances from being smuggled across our shared border. Initiatives like “Project Money Penny” have disrupted firearms trafficking, resulting in the seizure of 173 smuggled firearms and dozens of arrests.

Since 2022, Canadian authorities have enforced a 100% tracing policy for seized firearms, significantly enhancing our ability to track crime guns. In 2023, 79% of firearms seized by Canadian authorities were traced back to the United States.

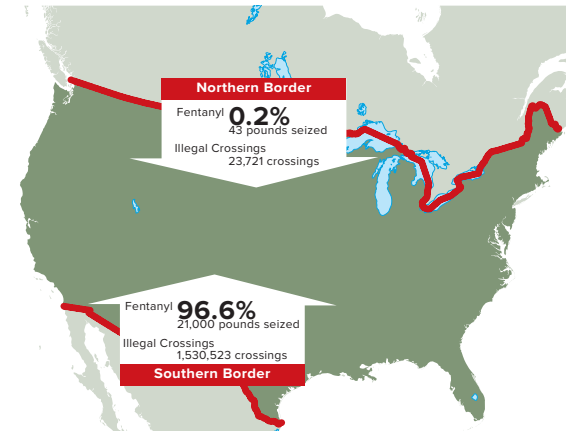
Addressing Illegal Migration and Human Trafficking

The United States and Canada work together on illegal migration through bilateral agreements like the expanded Safe Third Country Agreement (STCA), which requires most asylum seekers to request protection in the first safe country they enter. In March 2023, the STCA, previously applied only at official crossings, was expanded to cover the entire land border, including internal waterways like the Great Lakes. Canada is also enhancing its asylum system by allocating resources for processing claims, detaining high-risk individuals and removing failed claimants by housing them temporarily in a Regional Reception Centre to ensure public safety.

In 2024, Canada took significant action to enhance the integrity of its temporary resident programs by tightening eligibility requirements for temporary foreign workers, enforced employer compliance more strictly, and took action to mitigate fraud. Canada’s reimposition of partial visa requirements for Mexican citizens in February 2024 reduced Mexican volumes crossing illegally to the United States from Canada by around 70%. Actions to reduce visa fraud, identity threats, and tighten visa screening for key populations who are abusing the system are producing results: Canada investigated 600% more cases of potential misrepresentation by clients from September 2023 than the same time in 2024.

Canada is committed to working with the U.S. to curb illegal migration before individuals reach the border. The RCMP employ measures such as coordinated aerial surveillance, improved border technology, and existing legislation like the Criminal Code. Less than 1% of total illegal crossings to the U.S. occur at the Canadian border. Since spring 2024, Canada-U.S. joint efforts to reduce illegal entries into the U.S. by non-genuine visitors to Canada are seeing significant progress - 89% decrease in volumes between June and December 2024. In addition, Canada has conducted several operations resulting in significant successes in intercepting illegal human smuggling activities. For example, in 2024, the RCMP made several arrests in connection to a suspected human trafficking ring which carried out multiple trafficking operations involving over 100 migrants in the Cornwall, Ontario area to the United States.

Fentanyl seizures and Illegal Crossings in 2024



Based on U.S. fiscal year 2024 and US CBP data tracking its land borders

Our joint goal: to keep the border open to legitimate trade and travel while closing it to terrorists and criminals. Our law enforcement and intelligence agencies work closely with U.S. partners daily to combat terrorism, recognizing that a threat to one country is a threat to both.