

SPEAKING NOTES FOR

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AT THE

**STRATEGIES FOR PUBLIC SAFETY TRANSFORMATION
TERRORISM AND TECHNOLOGY:
PREVENTION, PROTECTION AND PURSUIT**

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Good morning ladies and gentlemen.

I am very pleased to be here today to help open the second conference on Strategies for Public Safety Transformation on behalf of Solicitor General Easter. Mr. Easter has asked me to convey his regrets at not being able to be here today.

This year's conference builds on the tremendous success of last year's inaugural event in Whistler, British Columbia. It is an opportunity to continue to explore the use of technology as a counter-terrorism tool.

This event would not be possible without the generous support of the many private-sector sponsors. In particular, I would like to thank the event organizer, Reboot Communications, for bringing all of us together.

And on behalf of the Government of Canada, I would like to extend my greetings to all our American friends and colleagues here today.

Over the next two days, you'll hear about how technology is being used to fight organized crime and terrorism. You will hear from senior representatives of the RCMP and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, as well as representatives of other security and law enforcement agencies.

You'll also hear the American perspective, from people who—like yourselves—are working on the front lines.

I am sure our discussions will reinforce the magnitude of the task at hand as well as the possibilities that technology provides.

While the next couple of days will focus on technology, a recurring theme will be that of partnerships. Technology does not make things happen – people do. And they do so by working together.

This morning, I would like to share a Canadian perspective on improving public safety and national security, on building safer communities and smart and secure borders. And how teamwork and technology are essential to this effort.

In Canada, the Portfolio of the Solicitor General is mandated to protect Canadians and maintain a peaceful and safe society. But public safety is not the responsibility of this Ministry alone, or the federal government alone. We rely on partnerships to keep our communities, our country, and our gateways safe and prosperous. And that is why events such as this – which bring together representatives from all levels of government and the private sector – are vital to building understanding and partnership.

Nowhere is the need for collaboration greater than at border points, where so many partners work closely on a daily basis to keep us safe. Canada and the United States have

long worked side-by-side to respond to evolving threats to our shared security. The events of September 11th intensified this relationship, particularly with respect to border security and the legitimate flow of people and trade across that boundary.

Ensuring a smart border – one that is open for commerce but closed to terrorists and criminals – has been a major preoccupation between our two countries. In December 2001, Canada and the U.S. signed the *Smart Border Declaration*. The Declaration outlines our shared commitment to develop a border that securely facilitates the free flow of people and commerce, and that reflects the largest trading relationship in the world.

We are now a little more than one year into this agreement, and we have already achieved some significant milestones. These include the opening of FAST lanes for pre-approved commercial traffic at key border crossings and the signing of the “Safe Third Country Agreement” to more effectively manage the flow of refugee claimants.

We have also continued to enhance law enforcement and security intelligence cooperation, as called for in the Declaration. We have increased the number of Integrated Border Enforcement Teams (IBETs) along the entire Canada-U.S. border and enhanced intelligence capabilities through the creation of Integrated National Security Enforcement Teams in major Canadian cities.

In many ways, the *Smart Border Declaration* simply formalized and enhanced what our two countries have been doing for some time: working together, sharing best practices, and coordinating border-related law enforcement and security.

Initiatives like the IBETs, for example, date back to 1996. And in 1999, we concluded an agreement to share police technology, research and development. We also set up a direct link between the FBI, the National Crime Information Centre, and the Canadian Police Information Centre.

Because of these established ties, we are now sharing information quicker, through initiatives such as an electronic system for criminal records information exchange. Just last December, Solicitor General Easter met with U.S. Attorney General Ashcroft to sign an agreement to improve the exchange of fingerprint information between the FBI and the RCMP. This spring they will meet again under the long-standing Cross Border Crime Forum to continue to fine-tune this cooperation.

In addition to these bilateral initiatives, we have been equally busy on the domestic front. Nearly a year-and-a-half has passed since September 11. In overcoming that day, we seized an opportunity to bolster security across many fronts.

Within three months of that fateful day, Canada assembled an Anti-Terrorism Plan, enacted comprehensive anti- terrorism legislation, and established stronger immigration

and border controls. The Cabinet Committee on Public Security and Anti-Terrorism was established to address immediate and longer-term challenges to national security.

And Budget 2001 invested nearly eight billion dollars in the public safety envelope. For comparative purposes, this figure should be multiplied by 10 to account for the differences in population between our two countries.

This funding included the following major investments:

- \$1.6 billion to equip and deploy more intelligence and front-line investigative personnel, improve coordination among law enforcement, intelligence and national security agencies, and boost marine security;
- \$1 billion to improve screening of entrants to Canada;
- \$2.2 billion on air security, including the creation of a new air security organization and the placement of undercover police officers on Canadian aircraft;
- \$1.2 billion to enhance border security, including \$600M in infrastructure improvements at major border crossings; and,
- \$1.6B to improve critical infrastructure protection and emergency preparedness, and to expand the military's anti-terrorism capacity.

Canada's plan also recognizes the special role played by key federal agencies responsible for public security, such as Canadian Security Intelligence Service and the RCMP.

That's why we boosted CSIS's budget by 32% over the next five years – the biggest annual funding increase the Service has seen since its inception. It will mean improved technical capabilities and more intelligence officers in the Service.

And the RCMP's budget also increased over 35% in the last three years so that it can fill resource gaps, bring new technology on-line, and put more members to work on national security matters, especially at the border.

Our investments all address our capacity to respond, to coordinate, and collaborate with our partners. And our anti-terrorism measures and capabilities will steadily increase as we continue with our long-term anti-terrorism plan as provided for in Budget 2001.

While we are constantly strengthening existing bonds, we are also forging new partnerships. Our circle is constantly expanding to include new public safety partners outside of the traditional realm of law enforcement and security intelligence. The creation of the Department of Homeland Security is a reflection of that.

To properly leverage the work of many public safety partners—to make best use of all the facts and data at our disposal—we need to share what we know with everyone else who we consider a partner in the criminal justice system.

From a police officer who has pulled over a car and wants to find out more about its passengers, to customs official who is reviewing the passport of someone who has arrived

in Canada by aircraft, to a corrections officer who wants a comprehensive profile of an offender...everyone in the criminal justice system needs better and more complete information. Armed with this type of information, these front-line workers can make better decisions to ensure public safety.

We must have the capability to share what we know. That sounds easy enough, but like most things, the devil is in the details.

In Canada, many data systems were designed long ago, well before the advent of conventional networking. And many systems in the criminal justice system were designed to stand-alone – not just because of technical limitations, but also for reasons of business culture.

In many areas of Canada's criminal justice system, there simply wasn't a legacy of information sharing on which to build. The one notable exception was the creation in 1972, of the Canadian Police Information Centre—which now has 6,000 points of access for law enforcement and national security staff across the country.

So we got to work. In 1999, the Federal government committed to integrating information systems of all partners in Canada's criminal justice system. A five-year action plan was developed to link criminal justice agencies and to build a sustainable way that information could be shared among partners.

The Portfolio of the Solicitor General is leading the development of this initiative, called Canada Public Safety Information Network, or CPSIN (*seep-sin*). The Department's Integrated Justice Information Secretariat serves as the network's champion – ensuring the necessary commitment and momentum to ultimately enable a truly interoperable system that all public safety partners can benefit from. You will hear more about the concept of interoperability from the Secretariat's Executive Director, Greg Wright.

We've made great strides in delivering the vision of the CPSIN. At the heart of the federal strategy is a partnership — a cluster of nine federal departments and agencies committed to working towards a common goal.

The centrepiece of CPSIN is the creation of the National Criminal Justice Index, which will enable front line law enforcement and police officers to access a wide range of information through one simple enquiry. Common data standards are being developed, so that information can be meaningfully shared among agencies on both sides of the border. This is even more critical in our current environment of heightened security.

It is vital that information about a crime or an offender can be quickly shared between law enforcement agencies. But this must be done in a controlled and secure manner. Privacy safeguards must continue to be built into the network, to ensure that personal information is just as protected in electronic environments as it has been in paper environments. The need to balance individual rights and freedoms with collective rights

to safety and security in upcoming presentations is another important theme for discussion.

We are constantly building faster and better electronic information exchanges as we work towards our goal of a fully-interoperable public safety information network. This is exciting and pioneering work. No country in the world has yet put in place such a system. And it won't happen overnight. The reality is that we are engaged in a marathon, not a sprint. And the fastest way to the finish line is by working together, as we are doing today, and as we will continue to do throughout the year.

Let me conclude today by remarking that I am excited and encouraged by the progress we have made. There is much more to do, but I am sure that everyone gathered here today shares my sense of optimism and energy.

Thank you, and on behalf of Mr. Easter and myself, our best wishes on a most informative and constructive conference.