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GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

# United States Senate

September 8, 2016

His Excellency David MacNaughton  
The Ambassador of Canada  
Embassy of Canada  
501 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

The United States and Canada have for years been close allies and enjoy a particularly special relationship with regards to each other's national security. I write today to respectfully request further information about Canadian efforts to ensure border security with the United States and offer my support to advance our joint security needs.

Canada is expected to soon lift visa requirement for Mexican citizens traveling to Canada. As I understand, once the visa requirement is lifted in December, Mexican travelers will only require an Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA), a relatively inexpensive process that takes "just minutes to complete online," according to the announcement.

Further, I remain concerned that individuals posing as Mexican nationals may attempt to utilize this new policy as a means to more easily travel to the U.S. to do us harm. As you know, the U.S. and Canada share the world's longest undefended border. Canada is also Montana's largest trading partner by far, and I have every desire to continue this close trading relationship. Yet, this free exchange of goods and people occurs over a vast territory that could easily allow for intrusions between ports of entry. Unless Canada and the U.S. take continued steps to improve security along our border, I expect traffickers and potential terrorists to try and exploit such openness.

Out of concern for our joint security and to increase our cooperation to protect our borders and ports of entry, I respectfully request answers to the following questions:

- 1) How does Canada plan to track and enforce travelers from Mexico who have overstayed the six-months in which they are allowed to stay in Canada without a visa?
- 2) As Mexico does not participate in the Visa Waiver Program, what vetting procedures will Mexican travelers undergo prior to arrival in Canada?
- 3) How many travelers is Canada expecting to receive from Mexico as a result of this new policy?

- 4) Is Canada expecting to increase staffing for Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) and/or the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) as a result of this new policy? If so, by what measure?
- 5) At what point do CBSA and RCMP take enforcement actions should an individual overstay the six-month period granted under the eTA?
- 6) At what point would CBSA consider an individual to be a “flight risk”? Do Canadian officials check with U.S. Customs and Border Protection to ensure that U.S. officials are aware of that individual’s status?
- 7) Has the Canadian government coordinated efforts of this new policy with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security? To what extent will Canadian intelligence and law enforcement share and flag eTA traveler information with U.S. officials?

A durable security relationship between Canada and the U.S. is paramount as we fulfill the security needs of our two countries. Canada and the U.S. have long been proud partners in joint law enforcement, intelligence, and defense operations. I respectfully request your response to these questions and remain optimistic that our security relationship will remain one of the world’s most enduring for many years to come.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester  
United States Senator