
FACTSHEET

July 2007

BRITISH COLUMBIA ENHANCED DRIVER'S LICENCE

- ✦ Beginning as early as January 2008, under requirements established by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Department of State, all U.S. citizens and foreign nationals will be required to present a passport or other documents that denote identity and citizenship when entering the United States by land or sea. The Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) is the Administration's proposed plan to implement this mandate.
- ✦ B.C. continues to be seriously concerned about the impact of WHTI on cross-border trade and tourism. Ease of border travel is vital to families and communities on both sides of the border as well as the Province's economy.
- ✦ The 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games will draw visitors from across the continent and around the world. These added security measures could cause high levels of border congestion and affect economic activity leading up to and including the 2010 Games.
- ✦ As Canada's Gateway to the Asia Pacific, border traffic needs to be efficient as well as secure to ensure continental trade and travel with Asia flows smoothly. The Province is working with the Canadian federal government and Washington state to establish solutions that are cost-effective and convenient for businesses, border communities, and tourists.
- ✦ Premier Gordon Campbell of British Columbia and Governor Chris Gregoire of Washington state co-signed a letter to President Bush and Prime Minister Harper in December 2005, expressing concerns about the impact of WHTI on cross-border tourism.
- ✦ The Province is developing an enhanced driver's licence as a solution that meets the high security standards set by both federal governments and keeps legitimate traffic moving smoothly. The project is planned to start January 2008—pending federal approval.
- ✦ Plans for the enhanced driver's licence include exploring the introduction of appropriate technology that reduces fraud and increases the protection of personal information, and supports the ease of people and goods across the border.
- ✦ Maintaining personal privacy will continue to be paramount. BC has some of the strongest Protection of Privacy Laws in North America. BC's Information and Privacy Commissioner is being kept informed of the project to ensure compliance with privacy laws.
- ✦ British Columbia is committed to providing convenient options for cross-border travel while strengthening the security and protecting the privacy of our citizens. British Columbia is working to improve travel identity documents within provincial jurisdiction, such as birth certificates and driver's licences, by using appropriate technologies to achieve the important goals of strengthening security, reducing fraud, and enhancing privacy.

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