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New border plan will track everyone entering, leaving Canada: report

POSTMEDIA NEWS



Canada is set to sign a border security agreement with the United States next week featuring a control system to track everyone leaving the country, according to a media report on Monday.

Photograph by: Les Bazso/Postmedia News files, National Post

OTTAWA — Canada is set to sign a border security agreement with the United States next week featuring a control system to track everyone leaving the country, according to a media report on Monday.

The Beyond the Border initiative is expected to include an entry-exit system allowing the U.S. to monitor people entering or leaving Canada, the CTV News report said.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper and U.S. President Barack Obama are expected to sign the agreement when they meet in Washington next week.

Government officials dismissed privacy concerns, saying that Canadians' personal information is already shared with American officials when they visit the U.S.

Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird told CTV News that the government is aware that Canadians feel strongly about privacy issues.

The agreement is expected to cut down on traffic at border crossings and streamline regulations in the automotive and food sectors, the report said.

The Canadian government has viewed the agreement largely from a trade perspective, hoping to ensure smooth passage for the more than \$1.5 billion in annual trade that crosses the border every day, experts say.

For the U.S. government, the deal is said to ensure improved security and is expected to reassure Americans about the Canadian border.

The 32-point border action plan has been billed as a bilateral trade and security agreement designed to better co-ordinate intelligence-sharing at the border and streamline cross-border trade.