

Deputy Prime Minister
and Minister of Public Safety
and Emergency Preparedness Canada



Vice-première ministre
et ministre de la Sécurité publique
et de la Protection civile du Canada

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0P8

The Honourable L'honorable
A. Anne McLellan, P.C., M.P. c.p., députée

His Worship Eddie Francis
Mayor of the City of Windsor
350 City Hall Square
Windsor, ON N9A 6S1

Dear Mr. Mayor:

I have noted with interest recent media stories suggesting that a plan exists to move the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) presence in Windsor to the U.S. side of the Ambassador Bridge. This is not the case.

I should start by saying that the Government of Canada has received no concrete proposal from the Ambassador Bridge. Based on what little we know about the Bridge proposal, we would have serious concerns with the diminution of redundancy that would result from having only one port of entry. Specifically, if any emergency, security threat or even traffic problem were to disrupt the operations of that port of entry, our ability to adjust, assign staff to and take advantage of a second port entry would be curtailed.

The lack of information on this proposal also includes an absence of detail on how traffic will be affected. The Detroit-Windsor tunnel plays a vital role in bringing together two great cities on either side of the Canada-U.S. border, and we would have serious concerns with any plan that could disrupt those flows. A decision that is so important to so many families and businesses on both sides of the border should be based on sufficient information and strong analysis. We are concerned about any proposal that has the potential to reduce two-way visits across the border.

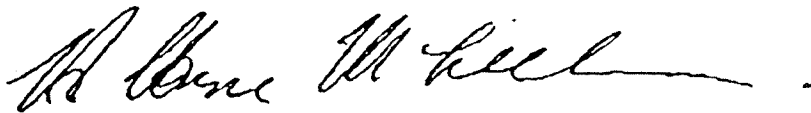
With respect to transferring CBSA employees to Detroit, we are not able under current laws or agreements with the U.S. to have the CBSA carry out its responsibilities on U.S. soil. We are not seeking such an arrangement in Windsor-Detroit. Let me further underscore that any decision to move CBSA operations to Detroit would ultimately be for the Government of Canada alone to make.

Canada

Notwithstanding the Bridge's recent statements and positions on the necessity for a new crossing, nothing will take away from our commitment to working with our partners and following the Binational Process for an additional crossing in the Windsor-Detroit Gateway. The development of additional border capacity is a national priority in both countries. On that, the City of Windsor remains a key player.

I look forward to our continued collaboration.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "A. Anne McLellan". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

A. Anne McLellan