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The Wilson Center Task Force on Public Health and the US-Canadian Border Invitation to Comment

Individuals and specialists with relevant expertise are invited to contribute to the work of the Wilson Center's Task Force on Public Health and the US-Canadian Border. The Canada Institute at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars is providing staff support for the Task Force and is seeking written submissions for review by the Task Force. All submissions **received by March 2021** will be carefully considered and shared with the Task Force, and acknowledged in the final report of the Task Force in March 2021, the one-year anniversary of the border restrictions policy. Please direct written submissions and/or questions about the Task Force to **Dr. Christopher Sands**, Director of the Canada Institute and staff director for the Task Force at Christopher.Sands@wilsoncenter.org.

The Wilson Center Task Force on Public Health and the US-Canadian Border is engaged in a review of the joint border restrictions imposed by the federal governments to slow the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020 and renewed for 30 days at a time since then. The objective of the Task Force is to advise the federal governments on (1) if and how best to incorporate health inspections at border crossings (including for individual and commercial land, maritime, and air transit), and (2) the design of a plan to lift border restrictions based on specific indicators in phases similar to those announced by governments with regard to business activity and gatherings.

The Task Force membership draws together four eminent leaders whose experiences in public office give them first-hand knowledge of the diverse US-Canadian border and stakeholders in border policy in Canada and the United States. The **Hon. Jean Charest** was Premier of Quebec on September 11, 2001 and forged a series of former and informal linkages with neighboring US states to facilitate public safety in the wake of terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington DC. The **Hon. Christine Gregoire** was the Governor of the State of Washington who developed enhanced driver licenses and the Peace Arch Crossing card, one of the first trusted traveler programs implemented in North America. The **Hon. Anne McLellan** served as Deputy Prime Minister and Canada's first Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, developing the necessary cooperative arrangements with the US Department of Homeland Security to enhance border security and trade facilitation. The members of the Task Force are serving in a voluntary capacity as concerned citizens.