



Border Crossing Update

As a result of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative, the Iroquois Caucus gave the Border Crossing Working Committee the mandate of developing a new secure card that would enable our community members to cross the border without having to obtain passports.

The Committee actively worked on the card; held meetings with officials from both the United States and Canadian Governments. Prior to the Final Rule on acceptable Cross Border Identification being issued, members of the Iroquois Caucus met with Department of Homeland Security. The intent of meeting with DHS was to present our concerns that historically the Border does not exist for our nations as our territories were only split as a result of the two Governments. We presented our new card for consideration as a cross border document to DHS, who are familiar with the company that would issue the card and agreed that the card would be a secure card.

Unfortunately, when the Final Rule came down on April 2, 2008, it only recognized the Federal Recognized Indian Nations in the United States to develop their own card. The Final rule did limit acceptance of these Nations cards to those Federal Recognized Nations that entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with DHS.

It is our understanding that the Haudenosaunee Confederacy has been working on a card to cross the border. According to an update by the Haudenosaunee Documentation Committee, they received a letter April 3, 2008 from DHS. The DHS letter informed all the Federally recognized nations of the new land border crossing rule; asking whether each Nation was interested in continuing to use its own documentation to cross the border and willing to work toward an MOA with the U.S. The Documentation Committee responded expressing their interest in exploring the possibility of an MOA with DHS on behalf of the Haudenosaunee. If you need additional information concerning this card, please contact the Haudenosaunee Documentation Committee at (315) 492 – 1922.

The Final Rule also provided a conditionally acceptance to the new Secure Certificate of Indian Status card proposed by INAC.

Six Nations attended a meeting on December 8, 2008 with representatives from Indian Affairs, Assembly of First Nations and Canadian Border Security Agency to discuss the rollout of the new SCIS.

According to Canadian Border Security Agency (CBSA) - Phase II of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) will commence on June 1, 2009 for crossing the

border by land or water; an individual over the age of 16 years of age will need one of the following documents to cross the border:

- Valid Passport
- Nexus Card or FAST card
- Enhanced Driver Licence (EDL)
- Enhanced Identification Card (EIC)
- Secure Certificate of Indian Status Card (if approved by DHS)

For those 15 years and under will be able to cross the border with their Birth Certificate or a citizenship card.

For those 18 years of age and under while travelling with a school or other organized groups, under adult supervision with parental/guardian consent will only require their Birth Certificate.

Enhanced Driver Licences:

Province of British Columbia issued it first EDL in April 2008 as Phase I; which was limited to 521; Phase II is set to commence May 2009; the card contains a Machine Readable zone and Radio Frequency Identification and can be used to cross the border. Ontario is schedule to start issuing their EDL in April 2009 for people in Ontario.

Secure Certificate of Indian Status (SCIS):

In the Final Rule, the U.S. indicated recognition of the new SCIS as a possible WHTI-compliant document for entering the United States by land and water if accepted by Department of Homeland Security (SDS). The Government of Canada is now seeking approval from DHS to accept the SCIS as WHTI-compliant document; there is on-going negotiations and discussion.

****A passport is required if you are flying from Canada to the United State or any other foreign Country.**