



May 19, 2010

Ms. Camille Therriault-Power  
Vice-President – Human Resources Branch  
Canada Border Service Agency  
99 Metcalfe Street, 3rd Floor, Room 302  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0L8

By email : [camille.therriault-power@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:camille.therriault-power@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)

**Re: Decision to postpone the doubling-up of Beaver Creek, Yukon**

Dear Ms. Therriault-Power:

I am writing to you to express the concern of the Customs and Immigration Union (CIU) over the decision to postpone the doubling-up of Beaver Creek, Yukon. I was shocked to hear from the field that this decision had been made with no consultation with the union at the National level. In the recent past, the CBSA has requested that CIU extend the courtesy of prior notice before contacting the Minister's office, other members of cabinet and or the media. Please accept this letter as notice of such.

As you know the current Government has repeatedly committed and dedicated specific funding to this vital initiative through both Minister Flaherty's budget and Canada's Economic action plan. I've included excerpts from both for ease of reference.

Minister Flaherty states:

***“Full implementation of stimulus***

*Today in this Budget our government restates its commitment to that vision.*

*First, we will continue meeting our country's immediate needs, to secure our economic recovery.*

*We are fully implementing the temporary stimulus measures announced in Canada's Economic Action Plan.”*

The economic Action plan goes on to name Beaver creek specifically, as found on the following link to the EAP website:

<http://www.actionplan.gc.ca/initiatives/eng/index.asp?mode=8&imode=2&initiativeid=6&id=137>

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The postponement of this project compromises Stephen Harper's commitment on August 31, 2006 where he said “Arming CBSA officers and eliminating situations where these officers work alone will allow them to do their job better and more effectively,”. This quote and other pertaining to this issue can be found on the Prime Minister's website at the following link:

<http://pm.gc.ca/eng/media.asp?id=1302>

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As co-chair of the Policy Safety and Health Committee with myself, I know you are acutely aware of the importance of doubling-up to officer safety as well as National Security. Local management in the area have indicated to staff that Mr. Rigby made the decision to postpone the Beaver Creek initiative because the infrastructure costs had exceeded the 10 million dollar budget allotted for Beaver Creek, Little Gold and Pleasant Camp. Although I am pleased that the other two are apparently going forward, leaving Beaver Creek behind is certainly an unacceptable response to this all too familiar tune of fiscal restraint. I would suggest that our members working in Beaver Creek value their safety just much as those in Little Gold, Pleasant Camp and indeed the rest of the locations across this country. To place a dollar figure on this is an insult to these members and indeed to National Security. When I informed the CIU National President of this development, being very familiar with the port he expressed total bafflement that, of all places, CBSA would propose Beaver Creek for doubling-up delay.

It is of note that this announcement came on the heels of the National Day of mourning for workers killed or injured on the job. It is my hope that the CBSA will revisit their decision before one of our member's is included on this grim annual roll call.

I look forward to your response, as well as working with you to ensure the safety and security of all of our members.

Sincerely,

Jason McMichael  
4<sup>th</sup> National Vice-President, CIU