

## EBTC NEWS

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**SUBJECT:** *Changes at US-Canada border allows gov't to track length of trip*

**SOURCE:** *James Abshire, Vancouver News (1130), 1/19/15*

VANCOUVER (NEWS1130) – You better be honest about how long you've been in the states the next time you cross back into Canada. New changes at the border allow the two governments to share info about when you enter and exit the country.

Immigration lawyer [Dennis McCrea](#) explains the purpose of the [Entry Exit Initiative](#). "It's a really an information sharing agreement with the United States. When a visitor enters Canada they are logged into the system, the passport is scanned, so Canada knows when a person comes into Canada, but they don't have any exit control. Whereas, when a person is leaving Canada and going to the United States, the US does the same thing. They record who's coming in and by sharing that information, they then will be able to book end that trip. So, we know when you came in and we know when you left." He says it could be useful for governments to track people they're worried about, as well as people who are trying to make Canada their home. "People who are applying for citizenship, they would then be able to determine how much time is actually spent in Canada in order to qualify to gain Canadian citizenship."

He thinks the average person won't really be impacted, but can understand why some may not like it. "What is the downside of it? Yes, there's a certain lack of privacy and some concerns as to what that other government would do with the information that is provided. Does it comply with our laws or just their laws or both?"

It should be a warning for some, as he says people who overstay their welcome in the US may be at risk of losing their health care or impacting their taxes. Why now all of a sudden? He says it's easy to do with better technology and some may argue a need for beefed up security.