



## Mission statement

The Association of International Customs and Border Agencies (AICBA) is an association of corporations, proprietorships, and partnerships of Customs Brokers, International Bridge and Tunnel Operators and Carriers of International Freight.

AICBA's mandate is to secure public support in Canada and the United States, make representations to governments, and co-ordinate activities with other organizations for:

- The expansion of Canadian and American trade
- The simplification of tariff charges, regulations and procedures
- The promotion of constructive legislation within the field of international trade and international transportation
- The self-regulation and professionalization of those engaged in the Practice of Customs Brokerage in Canada
- The development and promotion of standards of conduct among those engaged in the Practice of Customs Brokerage in Canada
- The maintenance and improvement of the qualifications and standards of practice for those engaged in the Practice of Customs Brokerage in Canada
- Promoting, protecting and furthering the interests, and conserving the rights of importers, exporters, customs brokers, transporters and others interested in international trade and international transportation
- Conducting research into and investigating issues affecting international trade and disseminating the results of such research to interested parties

AICBA shall strive, wherever possible, to provide equal opportunities for participation in its affairs in both English and French and to provide services to its members in both English and French.

## Our history and where we're going

### Yesterday

The Association of International Border Agencies (AIBA) was founded in 1952 to provide organized representation and information exchange among International Bridge and Tunnel Operators, Carriers of International Freight and both Canadian and American Customs Brokers operating at Canadian and American frontier ports of entry.

AIBA developed local chapters at various frontier ports of entry tasked with addressing local business concerns and issues that impacted the daily operations of its members, namely the efficient and timely movement of goods across the Canada - United States of border.

The chapters were comprised of members with business facilities in the Canadian communities of Fort Erie, Niagara Falls, Sarnia, Windsor, Toronto, and Lacolle, and the American communities of Buffalo, Niagara Falls, Port Huron, Detroit, and Champlain. This grassroots participation at frontier ports of entry garnered AIBA the reputation of being a “regional frontier organization”.

Early in its history, AIBA also sought an international role through direct involvement and participation with federal government agencies concerned with transborder trade in both Canada and the United States. AIBA members worked to establish a respected voice of consultation in Ottawa and Washington.

For half a century, AIBA provided its members with a venue to discuss and a voice to present their views on Canadian and American transborder trade. In 1996, the Customs Brokers Association of Canada (CBAC) was founded to provide a forum for the sharing of knowledge and expertise among its Canada-wide membership of multiple and single location customs brokers. CBAC's Ottawa office was the focus of communication between the association's members and various Canadian government agencies on international trade matters.

Created as a national association, CBAC provided its far-flung membership with immediate access to its executive committee through eastern, central and western regional representation. Rapid and accurate two-way communication ensured that members were informed and the board of directors acted both promptly and in the best interests of the membership.

## **Today**

At a time when the international trade community is experiencing a significant shift in the way it does business, the members of both AIBA and CBAC remain committed to change and open dialogue with governments. The goal of meeting the challenges and developing business solutions for a changing trade world are as important today as in the past.

To best meet challenges, AIBA and CBAC members partnered to create a new association incorporating their best practices, expanding their geographical representation, and ultimately increasing their membership and voice within the industry. The International Association of Customs and Border Agencies (AICBA) was created in December 2000.

## **The Future**

AICBA members know that during the next ten years, trade between Canada and the United States will be profoundly altered. The speed of change will surpass anything previously experienced and new legislation and methods of operations are expected to create new challenges and opportunities for AICBA members. With its new strengthened alliance, AICBA will be in the forefront of change.

During this time of change, AICBA will bring an enhanced voice for its members to the international trade community by actively participating in, and cooperating with, the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency, Transport Canada, the US Bureau of Customs, the US Department of Transport, and other government agencies on both sides of the border and beyond. AICBA will assist in the development of government policies, appoint representatives to government committees, and provide input on issues that reflect the concerns of the majority of AICBA members.

Issues such as the use and reliability of electronic commerce, the changing methods of transacting business, expanding government intervention, and increasing volumes of goods moving across the borders will be key components driving AICBA initiatives.

AICBA will strive to meet member needs by sharing knowledge, and providing education and training opportunities to meet the challenges of tomorrow's international trade environment.

## **The benefits of membership**

Any proprietorship, partnership or corporation who is a Carrier of International Freight, a Licenced Customs Broker in either Canada or the United States, or an International Bridge and Tunnel Operator is eligible to become a Member upon satisfaction of the Association of Customs and Border Agencies' (AICBA) membership requirements. AICBA also welcomes the membership of other proprietorships, partnerships or corporations who, through their provision of support services, have an interest in the businesses of Customs Brokers, International Carriers, and International Bridge and Tunnel Operators as Associate Members. AICBA proudly provides Member companies with four fundamental benefits:

- **The Voice of International Trade and Transportation** — AICBA influences the future of Canadian and American trade and transportation policy. Through open dialogue with government agencies and policy makers, AICBA works to steer legislation and policy affecting the operations of its members
- **Networking Opportunities** — AICBA's unique diversity of membership comprised of major players in the facilitation of international trade and transportation, provides a rare opportunity to work with like-minded businesses to foster understanding with respect to international trade and transportation issues
- **Educational Opportunities** — Education and understanding of the rapidly changing international trade and transportation environment is essential to business success. AICBA is committed to providing education opportunities in the fields of international trade and transportation to member and non-member personnel
- **Information Exchange** — AICBA members are kept current on policy changes, legislation initiatives and association news affecting their businesses. AICBA's fax and e-

mail network reaches members at a moment's notice. The AICBA website at [www.aicba.org](http://www.aicba.org) provides a library of information ranging from past customs regulations to today's latest trade and transportation issues.

## Who we are and what we do

### Canadian Customs Brokers

AICBA Canadian Customs Broker Members are involved in consulting and other activities involving transactions with the Canada Border Services Agency. These activities include the import, release, the movement and export merchandise, admissibility, classification and valuation, the payment of duties and taxes or other charges assessed or collected by the agency or refund, rebate or drawback thereof. All AICBA Canadian Customs Brokers Members are licensed and have extensive knowledge of the legislative and operational issues associated with international trade.

### United States Customs Brokers

AICBA United States Customs Broker Members are involved in the release, clearance and assessment of duties and taxes on goods traded with the United States. The United States Customs Border Protection Agency have a mandate to interpret the customs rules and regulations to the benefit of their importer clients while, at the same time, protect the revenues of their government authorities. All AICBA United States Customs Broker Members are licensed and have extensive knowledge of their legislative and operational issues in international trade.

### Carriers of International Freight

AICBA Carrier Members provide expertise in the transportation of goods across international borders, including all commercial border crossings between Canada, the United States, and Mexico. Trucks carry 90 per cent of all consumer products and foodstuffs in Canada – the majority of it originating from the United States and Mexico. Eighty per cent of Canada's trade with the United States is carried by truck and accounts for more than 13,000 border crossings per day at the four major Canada-US land crossings of Fort Erie/Buffalo Niagara Falls; Ontario/Niagara Falls; New York, Sarnia/Port Huron; and Windsor/Detroit.

### International Bridge and Tunnel Operators

AICBA International Bridge and Tunnel Operators provide the bridges, tunnels, and roadways to facilitate trade activities between Canada and the United States. International

Bridge and Tunnel operators are responsible for collecting tolls, maintaining the infrastructure of the Canada-US border crossing, and providing facilities for Customs and Immigration services. AICBA International Bridge and Tunnel Operators support automated release processes for both Canadian and American customs services.

## Associate Members

AICBA Associate Members have direct interest in businesses of customs brokers, international carriers, and international bridge and tunnel operators through their provision of support services and the receipt of invaluable information on issues of importance to AICBA.

## List of Members

To see a full list of our members please visit our web site at [www.aicba.org](http://www.aicba.org) and click on List of Members.

## Inquiries

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our National Office at:

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