



## **Government Grants and Loans made available for Supply Chain Security**

**By Peter E. Vajda, Trade Security Advisor**

Those who doubt the influence of Supply Chain Security programs like C-TPAT on Canadian business now have another group of believers to contend with, the governments of Quebec and Canada. One can easily imagine the cost and chaos that would result from a shutdown, or slowdown, at the US border. With these scenarios in mind, the Federal and Provincial governments have taken concrete steps to help exporters get their goods into the United States during such events.

For those unfamiliar with C-TPAT, the *Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism*, it is a program that was developed as a response to the border slowdowns of 9/11 by US Customs. Created at the behest of firms like GM, Ford and Sarah Lee, the program allows firms recognized as “secure” front-of- the-line treatment during border shutdowns. This program is, for all intent and purposes, the US government’s answer to uncertainty and unpredictability at the border.

The Quebec Ministry of Economic Development, Innovation and Exportation has announced grants to assist exporters seeking C-TPAT security certification. These grants will cover up to 40% of the costs of consulting fees disbursed during the certification process, up to a maximum of \$50,000.

In addition, the government of Canada, through the Export Development Canada (EDC) has announced an assistance program of its own, which dovetails nicely with Quebec’s program. The EDC is offering unsecured loans of up to \$150,000 for security infrastructure improvements such as fences and closed-circuit cameras.

In order to help you get a deeper understanding of how these programs can help your supply chain meet governments’ new trading standards, I invite you to contact me at 514-288-2161 ext. 2280 or [pvajda@milgram.com](mailto:pvajda@milgram.com).

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