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THE VOICE OF BUSINESS

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## **CHAMBER ADVOCACY ASSISTS IN EXTENDING HOURS OF SERVICE AND FEE REPEAL AT WILD HORSE BORDER CROSSING**

**(Medicine Hat)** On Tuesday, March 22 at the United States Customs and Border Protection roundtable session in Havre, Montana, the Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) announced that it will align its commercial hours at the port of Wild Horse with its seasonal traveller hours. This change will bring the hours of service on the Canadian side of the border in line with those already in place on the American side.

This sudden shift in the CBSA's position comes amid growing public support for efforts on both sides of the border to increase the hours of service at the port of Wild Horse, with the eventual goal of seeing the crossing become Alberta's second port of entry with around the clock service.

Milvia Bauman, Chair of the Medicine Hat & District Chamber of Commerce, was unable to attend the roundtable session, however she issued the following statement regarding the event's positive outcome: "This is a significant achievement that has resulted from the advocacy efforts of the Chamber and our partners in this cause. The additional twenty-eight hours of service per week and the elimination of the after-hours processing fee will encourage greater utilization of the Wild Horse border crossing throughout the coming months. We are confident that the amount of additional traffic through the port measured during this time will provide further justification for the port's expansion into a 24-hour crossing."

Effective March 28, 2011, the hours of operation for commercial traffic at the port of Wild Horse will be 8:00 am to 9:00 pm, seven days a week. These extended hours, part of a CBSA pilot project, will remain in effect until October 31, 2011. The previously mandated \$25.00 processing fee charged to commercial traffic crossing the border after 5:00 pm has also been repealed. These changes to service at the port of Wild Horse will be reflected on the Canadian Border Services Agency website, found at [www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca).

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