

# Memo to Anne McLellan



ROBERT LACOMBE

Critical infrastructure is often run by private companies not tasked with protecting citizens so ministries, such as that of Anne McLellan, must cooperate with them to safeguard Canada.

**A**fter the devastating July attacks on London's transportation system, Canada appeared on the most dreaded radar screen. "Canada's next," the headlines shouted. Given those pronouncements, *Diplomat* consulted some experts to find out what Anne McLellan and Canada's security officials should do to safeguard the country.

**KEEP COOPERATING:** "Intelligence-sharing is crucial and your RCMP and CSIS work extremely closely with MI5 and MI6 and Scotland yard as well as the FBI," said Bill Baker, former FBI agent and adviser to Fortress Global. "When I was at the FBI, we always worked well with these services."

**GET BACK INTO NORTHCOM:** "The fact

that Canada opted out of Northcom was the biggest disappointment around here," said Murray Hamilton, director of the University of Denver's Rocky Mountain Center for Homeland Defense, who spent 19 years with the Canadian Department of National Defence. "NORAD and Northcom are joint command and Canada is completely integrated in NORAD. Canada was told that for no cost, they could be at Northcom. Canada opted out. Now, if something happens over Canadian soil and the United States decides to launch an anti-ballistic missile, Canada won't be involved in the decision."

**ASSESS VULNERABILITY:** "You need to look at symbolic (a symbol of what terrorists hate), strategic (critical infrastructure) and catastrophic targets and then take a look at how hardened your defences are," said Gerry Leone, a New England attorney who prosecuted al-Qaeda "shoe bomber" Richard Reid.

**WORK WITH THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY:** "It's important to bring Muslims in line so they can help identify sleeper cells," Mr. Baker said. "One of the biggest problems we have in the United States is we don't have human intelligence," Mr. Leone agreed. "We don't have Middle Easterners who linguistically can move about bad guys – or even look like bad guys."

**PARTNER WITH PRIVATES:** Critical infrastructure is often run by private-sector organizations which are not tasked with protecting citizens. "So the government and private industry have to be talking

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and partnering more," Mr. Leone said.

**EXPAND THE WEB OF AWARENESS:** Make sure first responders are fully aware of the response plan and of signs to watch for, Mr. Baker said. After all, they're the ones on the front line. "If they know what to look for, they can be tremendous assets."



First responders were on the front line in London and need to be well prepared in Canada too.

**BOLSTER THE BORDER:** "We've always had a pretty passive border," Mr. Baker said. "But the borders really do need to be paid attention to." Dr. Hamilton agrees. "Now that they went after the trains and buses in London, I think there's going to be some huge cross-border issues. People and materials crossing the border will take a real priority now."

**BEEF UP FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE:** "(The government) should drastically increase intelligence-gathering capability and analysis-gathering capability, particularly overseas, in terms of human intelligence," said Joe Varner, a professor in the department of homeland security and intelligence and space studies at American Military University and an adviser to Canada's Conservative leader Stephen Harper. "We need a foreign intelligence service, either as part of a larger national intelligence service or as a stand-alone organization."

**STREAMLINE COMMUNICATIONS:** "The ability to secure a mass populace is, in large part, based on communication," said Patrick Stuver, co-founder and executive vice-president of 3n, a mass notification system manufacturer. "Canadian security officials are, in my estimation, some of the best candidates for mass notification systems. This would mean they can send messages from one person to as many as 20,000 people. Those people can receive the message by phone, Blackberry or email."



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