

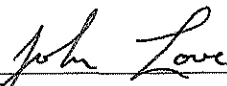
**Extension of the Patent Prosecution Highway Pilot Program
between the USPTO and the CIPO**

On January 28, 2008, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) commenced a Patent Prosecution Highway pilot program (PPH) which enabled an applicant whose claims have been determined allowable/patentable in an application filed in the Canadian Intellectual Property Office (CIPO) to have the corresponding application filed in the USPTO be advanced out of turn for examination. See notice entitled "Patent Prosecution Highway Pilot Program between the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the Canadian Intellectual Property Office," 1327 *Off. Gaz. Pat. Office* 45 (February 5, 2008). The USPTO indicated that the pilot program would last for a period of one year ending on January 28, 2009, but may be extended for an additional time period thereafter.

In order to adequately assess the feasibility of the PPH pilot program, the USPTO and the CIPO have decided to extend the trial program for an additional 2 years to January 28, 2011. The USPTO and CIPO will evaluate the results of the pilot program at the end of this 2 year period to determine whether and how the program should be fully implemented.

Please continue to direct inquiries on the PPH pilot program to Magdalen Greenlief at 571-272-8800 or via e-mail addressed to Magdalen.greenlief@uspto.gov.

Date: 12/22/08



John Love
Deputy Commissioner for Patent Examination

Policy
