

Attention: Naomi Horsford – Manager, Municipal and Stakeholder Relations
Vancouver Fraser Port Authority
100 The Pointe, 999 Canada Place
Vancouver, B.C. Canada V6C 3T4

The Delta Chamber of Commerce, representing member service/retail, industrial, and farming businesses acknowledges the important role the community of Delta has in nurturing Canada's trade capability and competitiveness. As evidenced by the recent protracted negotiations over the USMCA, the legacy of the fourteen other free trade agreements Canada is party to, and historical efforts to expand further agreements such as the TPP, global trade is a cornerstone of the Canadian economic inclusion of the world. The ability of Canadians to create goods and services the world wants and get them to market requires trade capability and competitiveness at a global scale.

Planning and building infrastructure to support our local and national economies requires commercially reasonable and balanced prudence. Required lead times to deliver these projects and activate them to meet the evolving trade opportunities of our markets in an open and competitive marketplace is critical to Canada's inclusion in world trade. With this in mind, Delta Chamber of Commerce supports expanded intermodal container handling capacity at Roberts Bank.

The Vancouver Fraser Port Authority (VFPA) remains the steward of federal shore lands in British Columbia's lower mainland region. In this role, they have championed infrastructure planning and building in collaboration with many private enterprise companies, including Global Container Terminals (GCT) and their recent third berth expansion, to support trade capability for Canadians. VFPA's current Roberts Bank Terminal 2 (RBT2) initiative will address the need for expanded container handling capacity. Due diligence on the initiative is far along with final design, equipment fit out, and financing to be determined in collaboration with whomever the successful private enterprise terminal operator becomes. Diversity of private enterprise terminal operators affords expanded commerce opportunities for the community.

Global trade dynamics are constantly evolving, and the container handling capacity of our port infrastructure should too. GCT has played an important role in this evolution, increasing their capacity from one berth on the original Pod 4 of the Roberts Bank development in the mid-1990s, to a second berth in 2000 and recently a third berth. As trade needs further evolve, furthering the due diligence of a fourth berth in collaboration with the VFPA and the RBT2 initiative should be considered.

Expanded intermodal container handling capacity at Roberts Bank only becomes feasible through integration with expanded land transportation infrastructure. Delta's existing road infrastructure continues to demonstrate over-capacity utilization as the region grows. Our businesses need to employ people and move goods, both of which are becoming more difficult as transportation capacity is demonstrably insufficient.

Our Delta farmlands are important to the region and optimal land use is critical to the transportation infrastructure solution. Rail transit capacity connecting people with businesses between Delta (including BC Ferries) and other regions relieves road congestion and supports environmental stewardship. Integrated with rail transit capacity expansion is the immediate need to resolve the Massey Tunnel crossing crisis.

The Delta Chamber of Commerce, along with our senior chamber organizations, supports a national strategy to build infrastructure to support commerce in Canada for future generations. We request the VFPA add its voice at all levels of government to make the necessary investments in transportation, infrastructure and technology that will give Delta citizens options to transit the region and give our businesses access to the employees they need in order to thrive and grow their businesses in Delta.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yvonne Anderson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Yvonne Anderson
Board Chair – Delta Chamber of Commerce

Cc: Directors of the Delta Chamber of Commerce