

## **Annual General Meeting | May 30, 2017**

### **Craig Neeser, Chair of the Board of Directors**

Good afternoon. Thank you for joining us at today's Annual General Meeting of the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority.

I would like to acknowledge the traditional territory of the Coast Salish Peoples and extend thanks to the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, on whose ancestral lands we are gathered today.

My name is Craig Neeser, chair of the board of directors.

I am very proud to stand before you in this role, and look forward to this opportunity every year for face time with our port community at this event.

In a few moments, Robin Silvester will share some of our accomplishments this past year. Then, Victor Pang will report on the 2016 financials and some of the highlights from last year

But, first, it is my pleasure to share a bit about the port authority, introduce the board of directors, and speak to some key accomplishments in 2016.

Simply put...we are the federal body responsible for facilitating Canada's trade through the Port of Vancouver.

As a Canadian port authority we are responsible for the lands, water and assets of Canada's largest port, and required to provide the marine infrastructure to support Canada's trade and our nation's role in the global supply chain.

And we are required to do all of this while protecting the environment and considering local communities.

The international trade that flows through this port supports jobs in communities all across the country. We are talking about 115,000 jobs critical to communities across Canada like Brandon, Manitoba or Wilcox, Saskatchewan or Grande Prairie, Alberta as well as many thousands of jobs here in the Lower Mainland.

To govern such a complex entity requires a diverse board of directors. As set out by the Canada Marine Act, we have 11 board members appointed as follows:

- one by the federal government
- one by the B.C. provincial government
- one on behalf of the western provincial governments of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba
- one on behalf of 16 municipal governments here in the Lower Mainland
- and the remaining seven by the federal government, based on the nominations made by port users.

This board, and its five committees, provides governance, oversight and approval of the strategic direction of the port authority, which is carried out by a strong and diverse group of employees led by president and CEO Robin Silvester and his team.

I am very pleased to introduce the board of directors. I ask each director to stand and remain standing until all directors have been introduced. Please hold your applause until the end.

- Eugene Kwan – our vice chair
- Anne Bancroft-Jones
- Tim Chapman
- Philip Hochstein
- Carol Kerfoot \*not here today
- Paul Landry
- Carmen Loberg
- Tom Longworth
- Penny Priddy
- Richard Turner

I'd like to recognize you all for the tremendous effort, time, your expertise and guidance you provide the port authority. Each of you embraces this complex role and remains steadfast with a long-term, sustainable vision for our nation's largest port. I am grateful to each of you. Thank you.

It's not just port employees, we all have a stake in what takes place in this important Pacific Gateway and I'd like to recognize your efforts and thank you for attending our annual general meeting today.

Whether you are a terminal operator, one of our tenants, an interested community member, or any other stakeholder, what we do, collectively, affects the well-being of individuals, families, communities and businesses across Canada who count on us to do what we do responsibly.

We are Canada's port. This is the gateway that links Canadian communities and Canadian products to international markets. Again, not just in our backyard...across Canada.

Working with *you* in innovative and collaborative ways, the port authority realized some remarkable achievements last year.

2016 was the first full calendar year of the revised Project and Environmental Review process. We maintained our commitment to a healthy environment, completing 232 environmental reviews last year in accordance with the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012.

One of these permits applications was for the G3 Grain Terminal project here on the North Shore, which the port authority approved last year. Construction for the first new grain terminal in the port in decades is underway. This is an exciting investment for the North Shore, but also a critical investment for hundreds of farming communities across our prairie provinces.

While projects such as G3 are necessary to support Canada's trade, we know we must work with our Port Cities on our growth strategies while at the same time, continue to contribute to livability for the cities we are part of. Last year Port Vancouver led a delegation of about

a dozen local mayors and municipal staff to the Worldwide Network of Port Cities conference in Rotterdam to learn about the relationship between ports and cities and how other port cities are addressing common challenges around the world. The goal of the trip was to inspire ideas to improve the port-city interface in the Lower Mainland. It was a very worthwhile and educational trip for all.

We have also been working with the federal government on a number of issues related to infrastructure and environmental programs, with a particular focus on the Oceans Protection Plan. We are very pleased with Prime Minister Trudeau's announcement of a national coastal strategy that will help establish Canada as a world leader in marine safety. The port authority is particularly supportive of the federal government's plans to fully resource the Canadian Coast Guard, which is critical to public safety and environmental stewardship on our coasts. The focus on environmental sustainability and responsible commercial use is truly commendable.

These are just a few highlights from last year, and I am immensely proud of what we have achieved.

We have spent much time and effort over the past few years planning the future of the gateway and I am very pleased with where Canada's largest Port is today - and where your Port is going.

We will continue to collaborate and look ahead to deliver on a vision that appropriately and accurately captures the sustainable future of Canada's most critical port, your Port here in Vancouver.

Keeping your port prosperous and sustainable for future generations is work I am very proud to lead.

Together with my fellow board members, I would like to thank you for your time and attention this afternoon.

And now, please welcome Robin Silvester, president and chief executive officer of the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority.