



Port Community Liaison Committee – Delta | December 7, 2023

Business update

October 2023 year-to-date

	Total Cargo	Auto	Coal	Grain	Potash	Foreign Breakbulk	Container TEUs	Cruise
YTD								
Compared to 2022	5%	31%	2%	60%	-16%	-24%	-16%	54%

- YTD October total tonnage 5% higher over the same period last year
- Increases over 2022 are seen for coal (+2%), autos (+31%), grain (+60%), sulphur (+9%), chemicals (+5%), and petroleum (+4%).
- Declines in potash (-16%), foreign breakbulk (-24%), container TEUs (-16%), canola oil (-15%), and wood pellets (-17%).

General updates

New president and CEO announced



On December 1, 2023, the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority’s board of directors announced that it has appointed Peter Xotta as president and chief executive officer, effective Monday, December 4, 2023. This appointment follows a comprehensive and competitive global executive search process facilitated by Korn Ferry.

“I am pleased that the Port of Vancouver—and all Canadians—will benefit from Peter’s leadership as president and CEO of the port authority that oversees Canada’s largest port,” said Cathy McLay, chair of the port authority board of directors. “As an experienced transportation executive with a track record of collaboration and success, Peter will continue to advance Canada’s position as a global trading partner while honouring Indigenous peoples, protecting the environment and supporting local communities.”

Peter most recently served as vice president, operations and supply chain for the port authority, where he was responsible for land and marine operations, health, safety and security, and port and supply chain optimization activities. He has worked for the port authority since 1995. The media release is [here](#).

Christmas at Canada Place

The annual Christmas at Canada Place event, presented by the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority, is December 1 to January 2. Experience the nostalgic tradition of the [Woodward's Windows](#), the North Point light display including "Chrimoose," our 15-foot-tall moose light sculpture, the iconic Sails of Light, and Avenue of Trees. This is a free outdoor experience. Info: www.canadaplace.ca/christmas Some elements of the Woodward's Windows are on display at the Delta Community Office.

Record year for cruise at Port of Vancouver



On October 24, 2023, the final cruise ship of the 2023 season, Holland America Line's Koningsdam, departed from the Canada Place cruise terminal at the Port of Vancouver, marking the end of a robust year for the local cruise industry. The Port of Vancouver welcomed an estimated 1.25 million passengers in 2023, a new record and a 54% increase compared to 2022. This includes 15 of Canada Place's 20 busiest days ever for cruise passengers, all occurring in the past six months. There were 332 cruise ship calls between April and October 2023, a new record for the Canada Place cruise terminal and an increase of 9% compared to 307 visits in 2022. The media release is [here](#).

Investing in innovation and technology to support trade growth and strengthen supply chains at the Port of Vancouver

The Vancouver Fraser Port Authority announced on October 20, 2023 that it is partnering with the Government of Canada and Province of B.C. through the Integrated Marketplace program to collaborate on innovation and technology to enhance the reliability and efficiency of trade through the Port of Vancouver. The initiative will improve trade competitiveness for Canadian businesses and access to the everyday goods Canadians rely on.

Delivered by Innovate BC, the Integrated Marketplace has received \$9.9 million from the Pacific Economic Development Agency of Canada (PacifiCan) and \$11.5 million from the provincial government which will support establishing the Port of Vancouver as a testbed where digital initiatives can be developed that will help ensure existing and future infrastructure gets used to its full potential. The media release is [here](#).

New centralized scheduling system for commercial ships to improve reliability, safety and efficiency at the Port of Vancouver

On October 17, the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority launched a new centralized scheduling system for commercial ships—the first of its kind at a Canadian port—designed to enhance the safety, reliability and efficiency of goods movement at the Port of Vancouver. Developed as part of the [port authority-led Active Vessel Traffic Management Program](#), the centralized scheduling system will help coordinate and optimize commercial ship traffic throughout the port authority's jurisdiction—with the goal of improving both ships' turnaround times and the volume of cargo handled by Port of Vancouver terminals. The media release is [here](#).

Port authority-led/funded projects

Annacis Auto Terminal Optimization Project

Project update: December 2023

Project website: portvancouver.com/annacisautoterminal

- An aerial video featuring rail upgrades is available on YouTube in [English](#) and [French](#)

The project includes:

- Expanding two existing terminal rail yards for an additional 61 rail car spots
- Installing additional electric vehicle charging stations
- Replacing select terminal buildings with a new vehicle processing facility

Project status:

- Rail construction was complete in 2023 Q2
- The vehicle processing centre (VPC) and EV chargers will be constructed in two phases.
- Onsite ground improvement work was completed in May 2023
- The second phase of construction on the vehicle processing centre and EV chargers commenced in November and is underway.
- The project is expected to be completed in its entirety in spring 2024.

Fraser Surrey Port Lands Transportation Improvements Project (Delta/Surrey)

Project website: portvancouver.com/frasersurreyupgrades

Project status: construction began in October 2023. No further updates.

The project includes:

- Extension of Timberland Road South as the arterial route for traffic to travel through the Fraser Surrey Port Lands
- Upgrades to the Timberland “Y” intersection to create a four-way intersection
- Railway crossing upgrades along Timberland Road to meet new federal standards
- Construction of an inbound container truck lane and vehicle access gates, managed and maintained by DP World Fraser Surrey
- Installation of overhead signage to direct vehicles
- Adding street lighting and closed-circuit television cameras, and integrating camera feeds into the port authority’s operations centre

Portside Blundell Road Improvements Project (Richmond)

As part of our mandate to facilitate Canada’s growing trade through the Port of Vancouver, the port authority has been advancing the **Portside Blundell Road Improvements Project** to increase capacity, efficiency and safety of transportation infrastructure in the Fraser Richmond industrial lands.

Since the project began in 2019, the port authority has been working with project partners and other stakeholders to undertake technical studies and engagement, advance project design, and plan for construction.

While the project team has made considerable progress, the project currently faces a significant funding gap and extended partner negotiations that have put the project at considerable risk. As a result, the port authority is not advancing the project at this time and is reviewing the strategy to deliver the project, or a component of it, in the future. We continue to believe the project brings significant benefits to this critical area for Canada’s trade. As part of our review, we are exploring opportunities to address the challenges facing the project.

Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Project

Project website: www.robertsbankterminal2.com

Project update: no update; update below is from October 7, 2023 meeting as reference for new community representatives

- On October 2, the Government of British Columbia approved the Roberts Bank Terminal 2 program by issuing an Environmental Assessment Certificate, along with the provincial conditions that the program must meet. This follows the federal approval received in April of this year.
- Each approval brings a set of conditions that must be met in order for the program to proceed. Federal conditions largely focus on overarching environmental preservation and wildlife protection, while provincial conditions are tailored to address provincial interests and concerns of British Columbians. Conditions related to Indigenous interests and priorities are included in both federal and provincial decision statements.
- Before construction can begin, there are other essential steps required. Some of these steps include securing permits, such as the *Species at Risk Act* compliant *Fisheries Act* Authorization approval, and collaborating closely with Indigenous groups in essential decision-making, initiating procurement processes, and preparing for a final investment decision.

- To learn more about Roberts Bank Terminal 2, visit the project website [here](#).

Other updates

Dredging Ladner Harbour

Dredging crews will be mobilizing to Ladner Harbour on December 8 and will begin dredging on December 11. Crews will be in the harbour for approximately 30 working days. This dredging represents the remaining \$1 million the port authority contributed to local channel dredging in Delta a few years ago. These dredging activities faced lengthy permitting delays as well as limited scheduling opportunity due to fisheries windows. Dredging volumes are expected to be between 30,000 and 33,000 cubic metres. The contractor is Vancouver Pile Driving.

Delta Community Office update

- Container Trail tours conducted this fall were at 80% to 100% capacity. The last tour of 2023 is December 9 which is sold out.
- Two sessions entitled *Connecting communities* featured indigenous storyteller Nathan Wilson, a member of Tsawwassen First Nation, who shared his indigenous heritage and cultural stories. Both sessions were “sold out” with approximately 30 different Delta residents attending each session.
- CN Rail representatives provided a free public presentation on Wednesday, November 1, 2023. Both sessions were “sold out” and we received positive feedback from those who attended.
- The Delta Community Office team and student representatives attended the Ladner Business Association’s tree lighting festival in Ladner Village on November 23. More than 500 people visited the Port of Vancouver tent, most of whom played the commodity match game and received free packet of hot chocolate and other giveaways. The port authority was presenting sponsor.

Holiday donation cheque presentations

On December 1, PCLC members presented a \$1,000 holiday donation to Reverend Peter Smythe, senior port chaplain with Mission to Seafarers at the Port of Vancouver. The donation will be used to support seafarers who visit the mission’s seafarer center at Roberts Bank. A \$1,000 holiday donation was also presented to Celine Arthur of Mamas for Mamas, a charitable organization that supports mothers and caregivers facing poverty-related struggles. The donation will be used to support mothers in Delta. Several years ago, the committee chose to support local charities in lieu of receiving holiday gift baskets from the port authority. Learn more about these organizations here: [The Mission to Seafarers | Working In Over 200 Ports Worldwide](#) (international website), [The Mission to Seafarers \(Port of Vancouver\)](#), and [Mamas for Mamas](#).

