

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

I would like to acknowledge that we are meeting today in the traditional territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, and more particularly the ancestral lands of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

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

Thank you for joining us again today.

In a few moments, Robin Silvester will provide his overview of last year and some of our current priorities, and Allan Baydala will report on our key statistics and financials. But, first, it is my pleasure to share a bit about us, introduce the board of directors, and highlight some key accomplishments in 2014.

On behalf of all Canadians, the port authority is a steward of the harbour and rivers within its jurisdiction. Too often we think of the port as "us" and perhaps we need to think it's more "*all of us*" together.

Yes, we are federally mandated to facilitate Canada's trade, providing for the protection of "*our environment*" and with regard for local communities "*our communities*". Again, all of "*our port*".

To govern such a multifaceted 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 municipal governments here in the Lower Mainland
- and the remainder by the federal government based on the nominations made by port users

Our board has extensive business expertise and experience. We represent and consider a broad spectrum of interests and communities, and together we provide a full range of perspectives.

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

- Eugene Kwan – our vice chair
- Anne Bancroft-Jones
- Tim Chapman
- Satnam Johal
- Carol Kerfoot
- Paul Landry
- Carmen Loberg
- Tom Longworth

- Penny Priddy
- Richard Turner (*not present today*)
- I am Craig Neeser, chair of the board of directors

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

You will hear throughout our remarks and discussion today about record volumes and shipment forecasts continuing to grow.

As an exporting nation, many of us are familiar with the types of commodities and resources we export, such as minerals, forest products and grain.

I was thinking about my life prior to working with the port. I grew up in Alberta – 25 years – all the agriculture, forest products went somewhere – global markets – away on trucks and rail cars? I then spent over 30 years in the forest industry here on the coast.

I started thinking – the port has been a huge part of my life, of my job ... all the plywood, paper products, lumber, specialty products all went through our port to global markets. I think those 35 years in industry we just accepted that – our port took our export specialties to market. The port just kind of took away all our products, the businesses all ran. I think we pretty well “took it for granted.” But, I never tied my job to *our port*, my house to *our port*.

I think we all simply took it for granted.

But, there are over 100,000 jobs tied to *our port* and over \$180 billion dollars of goods flow through *our port* every year (\$500 million every day!).

Yes, my job and those 100,000 other Canadians jobs are dependent on our port operating safely, sustainably, and efficiently ... I don't think any of us want to simply “take that for granted”!

So let's switch gears here. What about all those goods and materials that come across our docks – the imported goods?

Let's get a deeper understanding of what's being imported – and our reliance on imports and how *our port* impacts each of us, every day.

Consider your morning routine today before joining us here. How many of you drank coffee or ate a banana? Did you think they came to you through *our port*? When I was shaving this morning and looked at my razor, again *our port*. My coffee, *our port*. My phone, *our port*. I watched the morning news and sports on TV, again *our port*.

How many of you are wearing shirts or shoes made abroad? What kind of transportation did you take to get here? Car, bike, rail? *Our port!*

Consider the journey those coffee beans or your shoes have made, and we begin to see the complex nature of the global supply chain that supports our daily lifestyles. Often taken for granted. Every one of us is directly tied to *our port*.

With this personal connection in mind, I hope to provide perspective on the role of the port. When you think of our port and what passes through our many terminals, I encourage you to consider: your daily routine and the hundreds of thousands of jobs trade activity creates, and begin to think of the global supply chain that contributes to your personal lifestyle.

In the bigger picture, our board takes our nation-building responsibility very seriously. It's our mandate, it's our job.

Our port is required to provide the marine infrastructure to support Canada's role in that global supply chain, safely, sustainably and efficiently now and for the future.

That's why, through hard work combined with seasoned leadership and governance, working with you in a strategic and collaborative way - we have made some remarkable achievements last year.

We've seen tremendous growth, increased activity and ever increasing national reliance on *our port*.

It's important that we all are looking ahead and delivering a vision for *our port* in Vancouver.

I look around and see many of you who helped us with *our Port 2050* scenario planning – looking ahead, bringing stakeholders together to discuss and plan for our common future, this involvement is paramount to both our port's success and our nation's future.

Only by working together can we plan the future of *our port* to ensure the next generations of Canadians enjoy the economic prosperity that international trade provides our generation and future generations.

This brings me to my concluding point. Success in most cases is achieved through collaboration. The board of directors fully supports this teamwork and collaborative approach to doing business this way in *our port*.

In order to grow *our port* – to be one that is competitive, stable, safe, culturally rich, beautiful, and sustainable – just like any other collaboration, we need to work through our challenges, come together, and create the best outcome possible for this great nation and our Pacific Gateway.

With the spirit of collaboration in mind, I thank each of you for your support, your opinions and your contributions to our future.

And finally, I want to recognize some of the core components of *our port*. The terminal operators, our tenants and all other stakeholders who provide the operating structure behind the ever improving success of *our port*.

Thank you for your support and being here because you care about *our port* in Vancouver.

With that and on behalf of the board of directors, I would like to introduce our president and chief executive officer, Robin Silvester, to report on our port's 2014 activities.