



August 20, 2020

Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
160 Elgin Street, 22nd Floor
Ottawa, ON K1A 0H3
Email: iaac.conditions.aeic@canada.ca

Re: Milton Logistics Hub – Letter of Support

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Port of Halifax to reiterate our support for the Milton Logistics Hub project and offer input on the draft project conditions. We previously offered comments during the project's hearing process, where we spoke to the benefits that this project will generate for Canada's container trade industry and Canadian business as a whole. Thank you for another opportunity to provide input on this important project.

The Port of Halifax is the regional economic engine for Atlantic Canada. The direct Nova Scotia economic output of Port operations and Nova Scotia exporters is over \$2.45 billion, generating 13,600 jobs annually. In 2019 alone, the Port of Halifax saw 546,416 TEU of containerized throughput as we served some of the world's largest shipping lines from over 150 countries. Our ability to move cargo quickly and cost-effectively by rail to central Canada gives us a competitive advantage that makes the Port of Halifax one of the fastest growing gateways in North America. To meet this increase in demand, this year we completed the South End Container Terminal Extension project to help us accommodate the growing deployment of Ultra Class Container Vessels (UCCVs).

As the Port of Halifax continues to grow, it is important that we have access to a transportation network that can handle the increased volumes of cargo flowing to and from Port waters. We have always relied on CN's extensive rail network as an efficient, cost-effective and reliable means of transporting cargo throughout the region to central Canada and beyond. As such, we have experienced firsthand the issues caused by demand that exceeds capacity in CN's network in southern Ontario that is affecting the fluidity of cargo in that region. As the most populous region in Canada, it is important that southern Ontario can be serviced by a reliable transportation network with the flexibility to move goods to and from such densely populated communities efficiently. Therefore, we believe the Milton Logistics Hub stands as an effective solution to the capacity issues and will help ensure Canada's container trade industry can continue to grow the economy and provide Canadians with quality goods for decades to come.

As a Green Marine certified port, the Port of Halifax understands the importance of ensuring large-scale infrastructure projects are developed in a sustainable and environmentally conscious manner. We believe that the conditions imposed on the Milton Logistics Hub project should reflect this; however, we think it is critical that the conditions do not include any stipulations that would unreasonably restrict the ability of this project to be built and operated in a timely manner, and with the flexibility to service Canadians effectively.

Halifax Port Authority	Administration portuaire de Halifax
PO Box 336, Halifax	CP Box 336, Halifax
Nova Scotia B3J 2P6	Nouvelle-Ecosse B3J 2P6

T 902.426.8222 F 902.426.7335 www.portofhalifax.ca ISO 14001:2004 Reg: 1040847

The word "Canada" in a bold, black, serif font, with a small red and white Canadian flag icon to the right of the letter 'a'.



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This project is a significant investment in the success of Canada's container trade industry, which will be an important economic engine as we look to recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide input and for your considerations.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Captain Allan Gray
President & CEO
Halifax Port Authority

Halifax Port Authority
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