



Canadian
Chamber of
Commerce

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du Canada

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Le porte-parole des entreprises canadiennes^{MD}

Submission to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada's Review Panel for the Deltaport Expansion, Berth 4 Project.

January 7, 2022

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce is pleased to make a submission to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) regarding GCT's Deltaport Expansion, Berth Four Project (DP4). The Canadian Chamber is Canada's largest business association with a network of over 450 chambers of commerce and boards of trade representing approximately 200,000 members of all sizes, in all sectors of the economy in all regions of Canada.

The Chamber is supportive of GCT's DP4 project and the important socio-economic benefits it will provide for all Canadians. The project represents an incremental expansion of west coast container terminal capacity aimed at efficiently and competitively serving Canadian exporters, consumers, and supply chains.

As an export-dependent country in an increasingly connected and competitive global economy, it is critically important for Canada to continue expanding its export capacity. British Columbia provides crucial entry and exit points for Canadian goods moving to and from the Asia-Pacific countries. Containerized exports move to these points through a multi-modal trade corridor comprised of thousands of kilometres of highways and railways that extend right across Canada and into the U.S.

The Chamber continues to support projects that would increase the medium and long-term container capacity and efficiency on Canada's west coast and in the lower mainland.

Expanding Canada's west coast container capacity will strengthen Canada's competitive position in international markets and benefit all businesses that rely on connectivity to global supply chains. Ensuring Canada can accommodate container demand in the coming decades will benefit Canadian consumers, create thousands of new direct and indirect jobs and generate new tax revenue for government.

Looking ahead, the unprecedented long-term growth in demand and changes in consumption patterns presents a tremendous opportunity for Canada that can be supported by projects that look to increase container capacity for the Asia-Pacific Gateway.

Increased medium and long-term container capacity in the lower mainland will ensure Canada is in a position to take advantage of the opportunities from stemming from new trade agreements, including the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), which has provided Canada with trade access to a number of countries in the region.

Container demand on Canada's west coast is expected to grow at a rate of 2.3 per cent per annum until 2035, with continued growth of 1.1 per cent per annum after 2035, based on the latest forecasts commissioned by the port authority. It is critical that Canada take a long-term approach to planning to ensure that our ports are equipped to accommodate future growth.

The benefits of expanding Canada's container capacity and preserving supply chain efficiency in the lower mainland extends to all of the businesses that rely on Canada's Asia-Pacific Gateway and Corridor. On that basis, it is important that the policy decisions around this complex transportation and logistics project are made within the context of their impacts on the entire country. The DP4 project will improve Canada's competitive position in global markets and help maintain and improve Canadians' quality of life.