



ASSOCIATION OF CANADIAN PORT AUTHORITIES

Canada's Port Authorities are stepping up to support communities during COVID-19

*By the ACPA Team
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We've stated before that even during these challenging times, Canada Port Authorities (CPAs) are open for business. While it may not be business as usual, our nation's ports continue to diligently work with their partners to ensure vital goods keep moving during COVID-19, while doing their part to keep Canadians safe by implementing stringent control measures.



Though CPAs continue to play an important role in our supply chain system at this critical time, they are also making important contributions in another area: social responsibility. With families, businesses and communities all over the country feeling the crunch due to isolation measures, Canada's ports – big and small – also continue to embrace their role as community leaders.

Whether it's by participating in a solidarity movement, an initiative to slow down the spread of the virus or supporting a local charity group, their stories are inspiring. In these unprecedented times, the light is shining bright on the community leadership being displayed by CPAs. While all 17 Canada Port Authorities continue to be difference makers in their community during COVID-19, let's take a closer look at some of those efforts.

Port of Halifax

With some of its partners, Port of Halifax launched the "Fastlane" initiative to help identify and fast track the delivery of critical COVID-19-related cargo. "If your company has import cargo moving over Halifax that will aid in the COVID-19 fight (such as medical supplies, personal protective equipment, etc.), please contact us immediately." a statement said.

Hamilton Oshawa Port Authority (HOPA)

In many communities across Canada reliance on food banks has increased, while donations have slowed down as families stock up on the essentials. To bolster the food share supply chain locally, [HOPA donated \\$2,500 \(each\) to Hamilton Food Share and Feed the Need in Durham](#), two organizations that support a variety of local meal programs and food banks in their respective cities.

Port Alberni Port Authority (PAPA)

In Port Alberni, a coalition of local charities was formed to leverage their resources to better support programs for growing food, family and health needs in the community, which has been socially and economically impacted by COVID-19. Unfortunately, COVID-19 has caused the necessary cancellation of certain events planned to be held in the community that PAPA had planned to sponsor. PAPA has reallocated \$2,000 of these funds, so far, to contribute to the community relief effort.

Port of Quebec

With the current ban preventing cruise ships from being able to dock at Canadian ports, Port of Quebec realigned tasks for some of its employees towards other areas of operation, as well as community involvement during COVID-19. After offering its assistance to community organizations in Québec City, many responded to the call. Recently, port employees provided support to Patro Laval – a local community centre - by delivering meals to families living in low-income housing.

Port Saint John

Port Saint John supported the Greater Saint John Emergency Food Program via both a monetary donation and physical space to carry out its work. When the program began to run out of space, the port offered up one of their cruise terminals, which is now being used as a distribution centre where volunteers sort, pack and deliver groceries throughout the city.

Port of Sept-Îles

With stores across the nation limiting the quantity of certain products Canadians can buy during the same grocery trip, it forced Le Virage - an organization that offers meals on wheels every day of the week - to purchase a larger portion of its food supply from a wholesaler. When storage became an issue because of the larger quantities, Port of Sept-Îles purchased a freezer that Le Virage uses to store the extra food inventory, allowing it to safely continue the daily delivery service. Problem solved!

Port of Vancouver

In recognition of the many challenges faced by its partners during these unprecedented times, [Port of Vancouver provided prepackaged meals to truck drivers](#) as a show of appreciation to helping move goods in and out of the port.

Port Windsor

Recently, Port Windsor announced they had issued [locally sourced and locally produced face masks to all of its 846 port workers](#). “We could have easily sourced the masks online, but it was important to Port Windsor that the masks support local companies, and local workers,” the port’s President and CEO was quoted saying in the announcement.

How ever you may be impacted by COVID-19, we are all in this together. When we come across initiatives like these, it makes us smile. It makes us proud to be part of this industry. Because of these actions, and similar ones from other corporate citizens, we are in good hands. It encourages us to remain positive and reassures us that better days are ahead.