

Seaports: Creating Jobs and Propelling the Economy

On April 5th Canada's port authorities will again celebrate Western Hemisphere Ports Day--an opportunity to highlight the essential role in job creation and economic development our port communities provide . As a vital part of our transportation infrastructure our ports are connecting farmers, manufacturers, workers and consumers to the global marketplace and providing thought leadership in logistics management for the world.

Like ports worldwide, we have an ongoing commitment to remind our community and its leaders about the important role we play in advancing international trade and our export potential within the global economy.

The importance of ports in our region is well documented. According to IHS Markit's World Trade Service, combined international sea trade moving through Western Hemisphere ports in 2016 totaled 3.49 billion metric tons in volume and US\$3.01 trillion in value. Of that total, ports in Central and South America handled 1.71 billion metric tons of cargo valued at US\$941 billion, while North American ports handled 1.79 billion metric tons of goods, valued at US\$2.07 trillion.

However, the economic worth of all cargo in terms of jobs and business activity is much greater than its market value. According to the Economic Impact report generated by InterVISTAS in 2017, in Canada alone, port activity generated over 213 000 jobs and contribute over \$25 billion to the GDP.

Ports also play a critical role in providing goods that impact our everyday lives – and in revealing all our country has to offer to the world. Millions of tons of food, clothing, medicine, fuel and building materials, as well as consumer electronics and toys, move through Western Hemisphere seaports every day. And recently, as more and more consumers from around the world are taking an interest in exploring our coastlines, the market potential for cruise ship lines has really just begun to be realized.

The volume of cargo shipped by water is expected to dramatically increase over the next 20 years, as will the number of passengers traveling through our seaports. To meet these demands, we're committed to keeping our ports navigable, secure and sustainable.

We are proud to join hundreds of Western Hemisphere seaports in the celebration of Ports Day. In support of workers, farmers, employers, manufacturers and consumers everywhere, we are excited to meet the growing demands of the future.

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