

Celebrating Canada's 18 Port Authorities on Western Hemisphere Ports Day

April 5th marks Western Hemisphere Ports Day, a time to acknowledge Canada's 18 world-class port authorities and the hundreds of ports in the Americas. It is a day to recognize our industry's role as a key driver of job creation and economic prosperity, and our shared commitment to education, training and environmental stewardship initiatives on behalf of the communities we serve in Canada and across the Americas.

In collaboration with the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA), under the theme of "United for the Future," ACPA joins with Canada's 18 Port Authorities, along with hundreds of ports in North, Central and South America, and the Caribbean to highlight and celebrate the value of ports.

Like ports worldwide, Canada's ports have an ongoing obligation to remind our communities and leaders about the important role we play as a vital link to the global economy. Our work continues to support strong and efficient trade corridors, a robust workforce, vibrant communities and a growing economy here in Canada.

The importance of ports is well documented. According to IHS World Trade Service, combined international sea trade moving through Western Hemisphere ports in 2014 totaled 3.48 billion metric tons in volume and US\$3.75 trillion in value. Of that total, ports in Central and South America handled 1.68 billion metric tons of cargo valued at US\$1.36 trillion, while North American ports handled 1.79 billion metric tons of goods, valued at US\$2.39 trillion.

Here in Canada, ACPA members handle nearly two-thirds of the country's waterborne cargo and are pivotal in driving our country's economic growth. In the process, Canada's ports create 250,000 direct and indirect jobs and handle more than CAN\$400 billion worth of goods annually.

Ports also play a critical role in providing goods that impact our everyday lives and determine Canadians' quality of life. 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.

But the shipping world is changing dramatically. Expanded trade is making our world smaller. Traditional trade patterns are shifting and the volume of cargo shipped by water is expected to dramatically increase by 2020, as will the number of passengers traveling through our seaports. To meet these demands, we are committed to keeping our ports navigable, secure and sustainable.

On Ports Day, we want to continue to collaborate on ways our industry can lead the way in terms of job creation and economic growth for Canada. While the expansion of Canadian trade presents a remarkable opportunity, we can only capitalize on it and increase our competitiveness through strengthened facilities and improved supply chain efficiencies.

The recent federal budget recognized the importance of infrastructure in creating good, well-paying jobs and delivering sustained economic growth, and we look forward to working with the Government of Canada to better define the opportunities for ports within this funding envelope and to clarify how we can deliver fast, efficient trade corridors and enable ports to help Canada capitalize on the potential of global trade.

We are proud to recognize all 18 of Canada's world-class Port Authorities in celebration of Western Hemisphere Ports Day. Canada's ports are truly united for the future and as powerful trade enablers, we will continue to support Canada's ambitious trade agenda.

Wendy Zatylny is President of the Association of Canadian Port Authorities, representing the 18 Canada Port Authorities and related marine interests which handle more than \$400 billion worth of cargo annually.