



ASSOCIATION OF CANADIAN PORT AUTHORITIES
ASSOCIATION DES ADMINISTRATIONS PORTUAIRES CANADIENNES

NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANADA'S PORT AUTHORITIES ARE GATHERING TO MAP OUT STRATEGIES TO CONTRIBUTE TO CANADA'S TRADE AGENDA AND SUPPLY CHAIN EFFICIENCIES IN BATHURST, NB – AUGUST 17-20, 2014

OTTAWA, ON August 17, 2014 – Today's global economy is making the world smaller, and traditional trade patterns are shifting. Ensuring Canada is prepared to navigate this new reality is crucial to our country's economic growth and success.

It is also a unique opportunity for Canada to advance its global leadership. Beginning today, Canada's Port Authorities are gathering in Belledune, NB, — a key Atlantic gateway for the National Port System — for the Association of Canadian Port Authorities' (ACPA) annual conference to plot Canada's economic course through these changing maritime trade winds. Nearly 200 delegates will gather from today to August 20th to discuss the most pressing issues facing Canada's ports, including intense discussions about the economic importance of ports and their position at the centre of 21st century supply chains.

"Over the last decade, with an uncertain global economy, the maritime industry has shown that it can be innovative in building partnerships, significantly benefitting our Canadian transportation system," says Rayburn Doucett, President and CEO of the Belledune Port Authority. "Our conference will encourage the creation of effective partnerships to help usher in a new era of maritime industry cooperation within Canada."

Canadian Port Authorities handle more than 60 per cent of Canada's waterborne cargo, worth an estimated \$162 billion annually. This activity supports a quarter-million well-paying direct and indirect jobs. For every million tonnes of new cargo through these ports, 300 new jobs are created.

"Consider that 90 per cent of everything we buy travels by ship, including cars, tools, electronics, resources, food and medicines," said Sylvie Vachon, President and Chief Executive Officer, Montreal Port Authority and Chair of the Board of Directors of the Association of Canadian Port Authorities. "Canadians rely on shipped goods every day. We buy, therefore we must ship."

As Canada continues to pursue international trade agreements — like the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) with the European Union — the importance of efficient ports grows significantly. Stronger ports means stronger supply chains for all industries. More trade necessitates the expansion of port infrastructure.

The World Bank recently ranked Canada as the world's 14th most efficient nation in its trading practices — based on efficiency of clearing process, quality of infrastructure, the ease of arranging competitively priced shipments and other key factors.

Delegates at the ACPA conference will discuss how to improve that standing.

“In our view, 14th is not good enough for one of the world's leading trading nations,” said Wendy Zatylny, President of the Association of Canadian Port Authorities. “Our goal should be to break into the top 10, and we are confident that we can achieve that goal. With the partnership and support of the Government of Canada, Canada's Port Authorities will be able to ensure our infrastructure is able to support expanded international trade and that our supply chains operate smoothly and efficiently.

“Making port infrastructure a priority has never been more critical.”

Transportation Minister Lisa Raitt will address delegates tomorrow at the 2014 ACPA Conference, as will the New Brunswick Premier David Alward and the Mayor of Belledune, Ron Bourque. Keynote speakers scheduled to address the conference include Jaime Watt of Navigator Ltd; Frank McKenna, Deputy Chair of TD Bank; James D. Irving of J.D. Irving Ltd; Joseph Bonney, Senior Editor of the *Journal of Commerce*; and Denis Dupuis, President of Quebec Stevedoring Limited.

The conference also includes a trade show to provide marine industry exhibitors with a unique opportunity to showcase their services and network with the delegates and executives of the ACPA membership. The full 2014 ACPA 56th AGM and Conference program can be found at acpa2014.ca/ Accredited media are welcome to attend the Business Sessions, but must register on the website under the press-pass option.

About the Association of Canadian Port Authorities

The Association of Canadian Port Authorities was founded in 1958 and groups together ports and related marine interests into one national association. ACPA represents all Canadian Port Authorities, various government entities and companies doing business in the marine sector. It is the leading Association for the advocacy and advancement of the Canadian Port Industry. ACPA members contribute significantly to the local, regional and national economy of Canada, responsible for more than 250,000 direct and indirect jobs and handling more than \$162 billion worth of goods annually.

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BACKGROUNDER

QUICK FACTS ABOUT CANADA'S PORTS

- \$162 billion in goods is shipped through Canadian Port Authorities each year
- Canadian Port Authorities handle 60% of Canada's waterborne cargo
- Trade through Canada's ports supports 250,000 direct and indirect jobs that pay higher-than-average wages
- Every one million tonnes of new cargo coming through Canada's ports creates 300 new jobs

CURRENT REALITIES

- Since 2006, Canada has concluded new trade agreements with nine countries, and is in negotiations for several more, including the Trans Pacific Partnership and the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) with the European Union
- CETA, which has been approved by Canada and the EU and is awaiting ratification, gives Canada preferred access to the world's largest economy, home to 500 million people and \$17 trillion in economic activity

PORT EXPANSIONS

- To fully capitalize these trade opportunities, Canada needs to expand its port infrastructure
- Expanded port infrastructure will enable Canada to increase its competitiveness and improve the efficiency of its supply chain
- "Countries with better logistics can grow faster, become more competitive and increase their investment." — World Bank, 2012 report on logistics

COMMITMENTS REQUIRED

- Ensure the Canada Building Plan continues to have flexibility in criteria and expands funding options available to ports by establishing a dedicated, repayable low-interest fund with which to leverage partnerships
- Partnership with Canada's Trade Commissioner Service to develop a training program to help trade commissioners better understand the value-add of the National Port System, its role in supporting trade and enhancing Canada's leadership and competitiveness throughout a stronger supply chain
- Establish an inter-departmental working group — Transport, Industry, Trade, Fisheries and Oceans, etc. — to review the challenges ports face, including barriers to financial flexibility and regulatory challenges.