

# Empowering Canada's world-class, innovative ports to help spur a strong, sustainable economic recovery



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If you started your day with a coffee, turned on your computer to check your email before joining your first Zoom meeting or made a call on your mobile phone today, you can thank a Canada Port Authority (CPA) for helping to make your day a little easier. And lately, Canada's Port Authorities have also played a vital role moving personal protective equipment (PPE) and other supplies essential to fighting COVID-19. The importance of this lifeline is not surprising, since 80 per cent of all goods Canadians consume and use in their daily lives get to them via the marine shipping industry.

Today, Canada's ports are about so much more than simply managing ships and loading and unloading cargo. For years, innovation has been at the heart of Canada's port operations. From coast to coast, our port authorities have been reinventing themselves into state-of-the-art, world-class logistical hubs. So when the pandemic hit, Canada's 17 port authorities already had in place the operational procedures, technologies, training, and infrastructure that allowed them to pivot quickly and meet the unprecedented challenges presented by this crisis.

## Embodying the future

A key driver of local and economic regional development across the country, CPAs directly and indirectly create higher-than-average paying jobs for over 213,000 people across the entire country. Canada's port authorities are responsible for handling over \$200 billion worth of goods a year – with a direct economic impact of \$36 billion annually.

And while they are part of a sector that dates back millennia, Canada's port authorities recognize that future economic strength requires cutting-edge innovation and updated operations essential to staying competitive globally. Canada's ports embody this future. Managers of data as much as they are movers of cargo, our ports are part of a global logistics chain using new technologies such as blockchain, artificial intelligence and the internet of things to move cargo and people in a greener, safer and much more efficient manner. For instance, using AI-enabled applications, ports can identify and track essential goods aboard containers, which has been particularly helpful during the pandemic to track PPE and other critical cargo quickly.

There is great potential to leverage the innovative work CPAs are doing to help drive Canada's innovation agenda and grow into our potential as IT leaders globally. But federal government support is needed.

## Leveraging the resilience of ports to rebuild the Canadian economy

As managers of trade-enabling infrastructure, ports are significant generators of jobs and economic growth, no matter what country they are in. One OECD study demonstrated that, for every one million tonnes of new cargo moved through a port, 300 new jobs are created. To position ports to lead Canada's competitiveness through the recovery and beyond, infrastructure will be a key source of stimulus with immediate and long-term benefits.

Port authorities have numerous projects ready to go, but these have been deferred to maintain liquidity in the face of declining revenues as a result of the pandemic. But to ensure ports can maximize their contribution to Canada's economic recovery, the federal government must – as part of its recovery strategy – provide additional funding to the National Trade Corridors Fund (NTCF) to ensure it is adequately replenished. The process

for funding and development of recovery projects must also be streamlined to allow funds to flow quickly.

## Sustainability, increased trade go hand in hand with Canada's ports

Canada's port authorities know that economic prosperity and robust environmental stewardship go hand in hand. Marine shipping is the lowest emitter of GHGs per tonne kilometre. We have long championed Green Marine initiatives and related actions that have made our operations world-class examples of how technology is fueling environmental protection and sustainability. The need for government and the private sector to work together to ensure this sustainability has never been clearer.

And of course, ports continue to play a vital role in supporting Canada's important export economy. Our ports are doing global business across leading sectors and are connected to every aspect of the supply chains and intermodal linkages that power international trade. This too will be a vital aspect of Canada's post-pandemic recovery. The government should empower ports – as part of their core mandate – to engage in trade-facilitation activities which may include logistics facilities, inland ports and supply-chain related uses.

## Keeping goods moving essential to economic growth

Despite the unprecedented pressures of the current situation, Canada Port Authorities remain key partners in intermodal chains across the country, not only to keep essential goods moving right now but also to be ready to grow again as Canada emerges from the pandemic crisis. As forward-looking and sustainable generators of prosperity, ports are in an ideal position to help ignite Canada's post-pandemic recovery, all while helping Canada meet its sustainability goals. With the support of the federal government and the extensive work already accomplished by our ports and their industry partners, we can achieve all this and more. After all, Canadians will need more coffee, computers, phones, and all of the other essential items vital to a successful recovery – one in which ports will be there to facilitate bringing them to market.



**Association of  
Canadian Port  
Authorities**

*The leading voice of Canadian ports*



CREDIT: Prince Rupert Port Authority

## CANADA PORT AUTHORITIES: DOING OUR PART TO KEEP THE ECONOMY MOVING

Throughout the pandemic, Canada Port Authorities have continued moving essential cargo, employing people and supporting communities. And, we are ready to do so much more.

CPAs are well positioned to help drive a safe, sustainable economic recovery. We look forward to working with the federal government to enhance support for innovative infrastructure projects.

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