



**GREATER VANCOUVER  
BOARD OF TRADE**

Greater Vancouver Board of Trade  
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Hon. Iain J.S. Black, ICD.D

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Friday, February 8, 2019

**Greater Vancouver Board of Trade’s submission to the Canadian Transportation Agency regarding the investigation into possible rail service issues in the Vancouver area**

The Greater Vancouver Board of Trade (GVBOT) submits this response to the Canadian Transportation Agency.

Greater Vancouver and British Columbia serve a crucial role in facilitating Canada’s Pacific Gateway. Ideally located to serve growing Asian markets, the region is a nexus of import-export activity for the entire country. As Canada continues to take advantage of free trade agreements with the fastest growing trade blocs around the world, the Gateway is poised to get Canadian goods to markets. There are, however, significant impediments to the growth of the Gateway.

The economic significance of the western trade corridor is undeniable and meaningful efforts must be made to sustainably grow the gateway sector and maintain its competitiveness. The [Regional Export Framework](#), produced by the World Trade Centre Vancouver - a subsidiary of the GVBOT, found that B.C’s Asia-Pacific Gateway is estimated to support over \$34.3 billion in Canadian GDP and nearly 307,010 jobs in Canada during 2016. Further, the economic footprint of the Asia-Pacific Gateway contributed over \$1.9 billion to the federal government, nearly \$1.6 billion to the province of B.C. and approximately \$261.7 million to municipal governments within the Greater Vancouver area.

This growth is forecast to rapidly continue. Cargo volume through Canada’s western ports is anticipated to grow in the foreseeable future. Overall, from 2015 to 2017, the Port of Vancouver saw the bulk sector had increased by 5% and the breakbulk sector had seen a 2% increase<sup>1</sup>. However, there are significant bottlenecks in our trade corridors that prohibit future growth and competitiveness of the Gateway.

The GVBOT and our Members have been pleased to see financial commitments towards ‘bottleneck-eliminating’ projects that impact our region, through the National Trade Corridor Fund. Making progress on stakeholder priority projects will go a long way to maximize potential benefits for the local, provincial and national economy. These investments will assist our region in remaining competitive. The GVBOT believes funding should be deployed where there is the greatest potential to facilitate additional export capacity.

The Pacific-Gateway is vital for the economic prosperity of the whole of Canada. Gateway industries are an essential asset in the economic development and future growth of our country.

<sup>1</sup> Port of Vancouver. (2017). Statistics Overview. Retrieved from <https://www.portvancouver.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/2017-Stats-Overview-1.pdf>

Sincerely,  
**Greater Vancouver Board of Trade**, per;

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Iain J.S. Black". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Iain" being the most prominent.

Iain J.S. Black, ICD.D  
President and CEO