

Port Transportation Association



March 12, 2020

RE: Quarterly TLS Fees & COVID-19 updates

The Port Transportation Association is writing to you on behalf of not only our members, but all TLS companies in requesting the removal of the quarterly TLS fees due March 31, 2020.

The TLS fees should be balanced with perceived revenue that could be generated from container traffic via the Vancouver and surrounding Ports. We are clearly at a negative imbalance.

This past quarter has seen TLS companies face significant hardship, first with the Indigenous blockades, quickly followed by COVID-19 pandemic. We are seeing a significant number of vessels being delayed, if arriving at all.

In the month of February alone, there have been 9 gate closures at ports due to a lack of containers. Due to the undisputable reduction of container movement, we kindly ask that our quarterly fees be removed this quarter and review for the next quarter.

We feel this request would be in line with both Federal and Provincial measures being taken to ensure that COVID-19 does not further damage our economy or supply chain.

Additionally, we would like to request updates regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, and whether the reduced vessel traffic and container movement will affect trucks operating at the ports.

Specifically, whether truck tags will be put into jeopardy should COVID-19 continue to cause mass lockdowns around the world. The BC Trucking Commissioner may be in a better position to answer this question.

We look forward to opening a dialog with you on these issues, and would request a reply within the next five business days as to what measures will be taken by the VFPA to lessen the financial impact that companies have been and are currently facing.

Sincerely,

Port Transportation Association