

Port Transportation Association



Greg Rogge
Vancouver Fraser Port Authority
999 Canada Place
Vancouver, BC V6C 3T4

March 19, 2020

RE: Response to Access Agreement Notification Letter Received March 18, 2020

Dear Mr. Rogge,

The PTA would like to thank you for recognising the dedication and importance of the drayage sector and its vital position within the supply chain.

The situation that we are facing calls for drastic measures to be taken by the VFPA to ensure that risk to the supply chain is limited. Measures not only need to be taken at this time; decisive proactive measures must be introduced to promote the rebuilding of our economy when it is viable to do so. Canadians will move past this unfortunate situation and when that time comes, companies need to be as financially stable as possible to ensure that that happens as seamlessly as possible.

The PTA would also like to commend the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority for the quick response to these challenging times by offering the transition into monthly rather than quarterly payments. This measure has the appearance of relief although does not address the fact that container traffic is limited with both import and exports and the revenue flow to support license payments at this time and the foreseeable future is just not there.

The PTA is requesting that at this time ALL TLS license fee payments be put on hold.

The VFPA acting on behalf of the Federal Government, should understand that although some banks are offering relief in terms of deferred mortgage payments for private dwellings, commercial property leases are still valid and in full effect.

The PTA requests that in light of the situation, the VFPA suspend all TLS license fees until such time as the economy is on its way to be back in full swing. The data that the VFPA collects in terms of container traffic flow would be a good indicator as to when that time is taking place.

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For transparency and industry purposes, the PTA intends to distribute all content and post all meaningful dialogue on our website, to be viewed by both industry and the public.

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The VFPA's property division leases a substantial amount of property to some of the drayage companies for container storage and reload purposes; we ask that that VFPA review and possibly suspend or reduce those monthly lease payments.

With container ships delayed or cancelled, due to blockades and COVID-19, shutdowns abroad for months prior to COVID-19 have been negatively impacting the B.C. drayage sector.

Even taking into consideration, Prime Minister Trudeau's announcement of an \$82 billion economic response plan, TLS members are still facing hard times. Financial assistance, while providing some relief, is not instant.

Furthermore, information on how or when businesses can access financial assistance has yet to be released, with the exception of CRA tax payments being deferred until at least August 2020.

We believe that our request to REMOVE this quarter's payment in it's entirety and to suspend all TLS license fees for the foreseeable future, to be acceptable and reasonable assistance from the VFPA.

We at the PTA are making this urgent request, so we can ensure the support of those employed and attempt to remain on stable ground while we continue to operate in these unique financially challenging times.

The B.C. drayage sector proudly supplies our communities with the goods and supplies needed during these unprecedented times.

We thank you for your consideration and ask for a reply by March 23, 2020.

Sincerely,

The Port Transportation Association

CC:

OBCCTC
TLS
GCT Canada
DP World

Port Transportation Association



Federal Minister of Transportation
Federal Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion & International Trade
Federal Minister of Labour
Ken Hardie, MP
Randeep Sarai, MP
Terry Beech, MP