



Delta Chamber of Commerce

6201 – 60th Avenue, Delta, British Columbia, V4K 4E2 phone: 604-946-4232 fax: 604-946-5285
www.deltachamber.com and email admin@deltachamber.com



November 13, 2009

Government of Canada
House Standing Committee on Finance
Sixth Floor, 131 Queen Street
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Attention: Jean-Francois Page, Clerk of the Committee

RE: Ladner Sediment Group brief, August 13, 2009, on funding for Ladner Harbour and area dredging

Dear Finance Committee Chair:

The Delta Chamber of Commerce is compelled to speak on behalf of business in this region regarding our existing policy on the status of primary and secondary waterways in the Fraser River Delta area. Our concern relates the alarming reduction of passage through these waterways since the federal government stopped funding for dredging.

These waterways are adjacent and linked to the deep sea port and infrastructure which are growing to serve the needs of all of Canada in the rapidly growing and competitive trade with Asia. In our increasingly competitive global economy and as we face productivity challenges at home, this port system is of strategic importance to the entire country.

The Delta Chamber of Commerce has been a leading advocate for adequate support and funding of Canada's deep sea and river ports. We have collaborated with chambers of commerce and boards of trade in British Columbia to lead resolutions presented to the Province of British Columbia in this matter. With partner chambers in Nova Scotia and Ontario through the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, we have also been co-leader of a similar resolution which has been presented to the Government of Canada.

While Deltaport is expanding to serve Canada's needs, the local business community is suffering more and more from the problem of silt clogging local waterways along the Fraser River. Passage of boats is restricted more and more and waterfront development is seriously challenged because the federally funded dredging program was halted. Under these circumstances the economic outcomes can only continue to

diminish in this area as this silting problem hinders not only waterfront development but the local fishing industry.

On behalf of the business community in Delta and area, and in support of the entire community of Delta, the Delta Chamber of Commerce, with respect, encourages the Standing Committee on Finance to provide sufficient funding to Port Metro Vancouver (the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority) so it can maintain adequate water depths in the lower Fraser River.

Port Metro Vancouver requires sufficient funding for the single task of adequately dredging the local waterways to restore them to their former working condition. We are appealing for support of the Committee for at least the two main channels in five at or near Ladner Harbour at an estimated cost of \$5 million. Sufficient funding over the long term for ongoing maintenance is also required at \$500,000 per year. This funding does not address the dredging needs of three other channels in the Ladner Harbour area nor the 11 other channels nearby.

Given the funding for dredging and ice breaking along other waterways in Canada, we hope the Finance Committee will consider this proposal in keeping with that precedent. Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Muirhead", written in a cursive style.

Greg Muirhead
Chair

cc

Port Metro Vancouver
Her Worship Mayor Lois Jackson, Corporation of Delta
John Cummins, MP
Sukh Dhaliwal, MP
Ladner Sediment Group