

Oct 16, 2019

Hon. Carol James
Minister of Finance and Deputy Premier
PO Box 9048, Stn Prov Govt,
Victoria, BC
V8W 9E2

Dear Minister James,

The Delta Chamber of Commerce supports our national interests in ensuring trade growth and diversity through such initiatives as the National Trade Corridors Fund and the province's collaborative approach to the same through the Ports Competitiveness Initiative. Like other municipalities in British Columbia, these federal and provincial initiatives have a direct impact on the community of Delta. Ensuring these initiatives remain relevant to the current and forward needs of Canada's trade effectiveness is important. The Delta Chamber of Commerce will support the Province's current review of the Ports Property Tax Act ("Act") if it ensures that the interests of Canada's trade effectiveness are balanced with the needs and interests of Delta's businesses, farmers and residents.

As a member-based voice for business and community in Delta, we are writing to add context to the Province's review. As a major port community, Delta is particularly impacted by most, if not all, government initiatives linked to enhancing trade capability in the Lower Mainland. Perhaps unique from other Pacific port communities though is the need for Delta to balance its commitment to Federal/Provincial initiatives with those of our municipality. This balance imperative falls into sharp view when considering the role Delta plays in the province's agriculture sector while concurrently supporting the road/rail transportation network necessary for port activity.

With the increased container volumes moving through our port comes the need for increased road/rail infrastructure that will bisect our residential burrows and agriculture lands in Delta. The Delta Chamber of Commerce agrees with the "*Ports Moderationization Review: Discussion Paper published by Transport Canada*", where it recommends a broader stakeholder inclusion in the review process of port operations in the communities where they are located.

We would encourage the Provincial Government to invite the following stakeholders to participate in the process being undertaken to review the Ports Property Tax Act: our port operators, our municipal government, local businesses including farmers, the indigenous community, environmentalists and the federal government. All of these stakeholders, working together collaboratively, will best ensure an outcome that supports enhanced port competitiveness while incorporating local business interests, land-use priorities, the environment and transportation infrastructure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yvonne Anderson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Yvonne Anderson
Chair of the Board - Delta Chamber of Commerce

Cc: Board of Directors – Delta Chamber of Commerce

Garry Shearer – Executive Director – Delta Chamber of Commerce

Mayor & Council – City of Delta

Marko Dekovic - Vice President Public Affairs – Global Container Terminals Inc.

Glenn Dudar – Vice President and General Manager – Westshore Terminal

Naomi Horsford – Manager, Community and Stakeholder Relations – POV