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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 10, 2013

Port Authority and City of Port Alberni Present Port Alberni Trans-Shipment Hub Concept to Metro Vancouver Transportation Committee

PORT ALBERNI – The Port Alberni Port Authority (PAPA) and the City of Port Alberni were welcomed by the Metro Vancouver Transportation Committee October 9, 2013 to present the Port Alberni Tran-shipment Hub (PATH) concept. Joining Mayor John Douglas, who organized the delegation, were PAPA's CEO, Zoran Knezevic and Director of Public Relations and Business Development, Dave McCormick. Mr. Knezevic took full opportunity to describe the many meaningful benefits that would be felt by lower mainland communities if PATH were to be developed.

Mr. Knezevic described the socio-economic benefits as “significant and far reaching; especially when you consider that PATH can help provide a solution to ease container truck traffic congestion and pollution throughout the lower mainland by maximizing the potential of the Fraser River as a marine highway.” Mayor Douglas supports this approach by further elaborating that: “the nation benefits from increased international trade but, currently, lower mainland municipalities bear the burden of those costs as trade-related truck traffic takes a great toll of roads infrastructure. Costs of maintaining these municipal roads are the responsibility of the local taxpayer. So, as mayors, we are all looking at solutions to ease the tax burden on our communities.”

The PAPA and City delegation requested written support from the Committee and its members for the project. Members of the Metro Vancouver Transportation Committee were very engaged and interested in PATH and are looking forward to learning more. Following the presentation the Transportation Committee passed a motion to have Metro Vancouver staff follow up for more information and investigation.

“We believe we left a very positive impression with this group of mayors and scored a minor victory in achieving the wide-spread support PATH needs to be achieved,” stated Mayor Douglas. “The next step in the project’s development process is the completion of the Feasibility Study, which will start imminently” explained Mr. McCormick.

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