



December 17, 2012

Mr. Robin Silvester
President and Chief Executive Officer
Vancouver Fraser Port Authority (Port Metro Vancouver)
#100 The Pointe, 999 Canada Place
Vancouver, BC V6C 3T4

Dear Mr. Silvester:

We write to introduce ourselves, our organization, and to convey our joint request that the Fraser Health Authority (FH), and the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority (VCH) be recognized by Port Metro Vancouver (PMV) as key stakeholders equivalent to government agencies in the PMV planning processes.

Fraser Health and Vancouver Coastal Health are established by the provincial government under the BC Health Authorities Act. In our respective geographic regions the health authorities deliver provincially funded and mandated health services spanning the whole range from acute care hospitals, to public health. Under the leadership of Order in Council appointed Medical Health Officers, health authority public health staff is responsible for protecting the public's health, pursuant to the duties and the powers defined in the BC Public Health Act. Specifically, under the act, health officers are required to investigate, prevent, stop or mitigate health hazards. Health authorities carry out these functions in collaboration with local, provincial, and federal government departments.

We are well aware of the vital role Port Metro Vancouver plays in the Lower Mainland communities that we also serve. We note that phase 2 consultation is underway in the PMV Land Use Planning process. As well, a number of projects that would expand capacity in PMV are either already underway or being reviewed at this time. FH and VCH are interested in having a formal voice in the PMV planning and project review processes for a number of reasons:

- Port side activities could have impact outside of the port – for example air emissions, and noise
- Port side activities invariably involve outside of port activities in the adjacent communities and neighborhoods – for example rail and road traffic from movement of goods.
- Some of the goods moved through the adjacent communities to the port are hazardous materials, or could be hazardous if not done properly
- Rail and road traffic produce air emissions, noise, and risk of injury, as well as livability concerns.
- Population growth in the metro Vancouver area is expected to continue steadily, with most of the growth planned in the urban areas, where many of the PMV ports are also located
- PMV is primarily responsible for impacts arising directly from port activities. PMV has no legal responsibility for impacts from activities outside of the PMV ports but are directly related to port activities, such as movement of goods
- The potential upstream and downstream impacts from port activities could span a number of jurisdictional boundaries. It is incumbent upon PMV to work with external agencies, including Health Authorities to ensure that impacts linked to port activities but occur outside of the port areas are well managed – in particular, moving forward with the expected expansion of PMV role in the provincial and federal Pacific Gateway strategy
- FH and VCH already have formal referral processes for reviewing environmental permit applications to Metro Vancouver and local governments. The total land area covered by PMV along the metro Vancouver waterfront is as large as some of the municipalities.
- The public increasingly expects health impact considerations to take a broader systems perspective.

We expect the level of Health Authority involvement in the PMV planning and project review processes to vary, depending on the scope of the planning exercise or the proposed project. For small projects that are likely to have minimal health impact, we expect our involvement to be similarly minimal. We anticipate our involvement to be more extensive for long term land use planning or large projects.

We recognize that population health is influenced by a number of factors including environmental, economic, social, and other determinants. A promising tool for reviewing large projects and long term plans, and as well, for public engagement is **Health Impact Assessment (HIA)**. HIA is a process that brings together stakeholders including the public to consider both the positive and negative health impacts of a proposal from the perspective of all participants, and make recommendations based on all the factors that may influence health arising from the proposal. A well scoped and conducted HIA can be a valuable addition to an existing environmental impact assessment process. An example of using HIA for ports is the current HIA projects in the Port of Los Angeles – Port of Long

Beach area, and for the I-710 corridor for goods movement between the southern California ports. We believe a similar approach can be a useful addition to the PMV Land Use Plan development process. As well, HIA can add value to the existing environmental impact assessment process and improve meaningful public engagement for new projects such as the proposed expansions of coal loading capacities in the Fraser Surrey Docks and Neptune Terminal, where both proposals will introduce a new type of goods (coal) and an increase in rail traffic in some communities, and increased coal rail traffic above current level in other communities.

In summary, Fraser Health and Vancouver Coastal Health believe it is important for Port Metro Vancouver to include the health authorities as key government agency level stakeholders in the PMV planning and project review processes. We are prepared and look forward to work with PMV for the health and well-being of the communities we all serve.

Sincerely,



Paul Van Buynder, MBBS, MPH, FAFPHM Vice-President, Public Health and Chief Medical Health Officer Fraser Health Authority

Patricia Daly MD, FRCPC Vice-President, Public Health and Chief Medical Health Officer Vancouver Coastal Health
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CC : Dr. Perry Kendall, Provincial Health Officer