



RIDLEY TERMINALS INC.



LAX KW'ALAAMS BAND

Solutions for Resilient, Inclusive Economic Recovery Through Business and Community Partnerships

Brief for Standing Committee on Industry, Science and
Technology (INDU)'s study of the Canadian Response to the
COVID-19 Pandemic

Submitted by Ridley Terminals Inc., ILWU Local 523 and Lax Kw'alaams
Band

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Introduction

Ridley Terminals Inc. (RTI), our owners, and our partners in the International Longshore and Waterhouse Unions, Local 523, welcomes the opportunity to share its perspectives with the Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology (INDU) regarding re-starting the Canadian economy and recovering from the pandemic. We thank all Parliamentarians and Government of Canada officials for their hard work to help ensure the safety of Canadians and their livelihoods during the pandemic. As Canada looks to recover and re-energize its economy, we would like to put forward some crucial areas the government can support to create a vital, widespread and equitable economic recovery. These include **regional and rural economic development, Indigenous job creation, industrial infrastructure, and ensuring resilience in our supply chain.**

About Ridley Terminals

RTI is a privately-owned marine bulk handling terminal in Prince Rupert, British Columbia. Until 2019, RTI was under Crown ownership, but it is now privately owned with a significant equity position held by the Lax Kw'alaams and Metlakatla Coast Tsimshian First Nations. Under an experienced new leadership team, we are working hard to secure the terminal's full potential and long-term future, while helping to revitalize our local economy and support our First Nations partners.

The pandemic has hit the Canadian economy hard, and we at RTI are proud that we have been able to maintain our essential support of Canada's northern trade gateway and retain all our staff during this challenging period, while working under revised health protocols. However, as the country begins to re-open and restart, we would like to raise to the government's attention some crucial elements of the economy that will be able to act as engines of job creation and economic revitalization post-pandemic.

Looking ahead: investing in "shovel-ready" Canadian industrial infrastructure

We appreciate the speed at which the government reacted to this crisis. While we have not needed to get assistance through programs like the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy and the Large Employer Emergency Financing Facility, these have been beneficial as emergency measures to keep businesses afloat and Canadians employed. However, as the government looks to help the Canadian economy recover, it must look towards investments that will create sustained jobs, bring value into their communities, and build up the nation's assets. **Investing in infrastructure, particularly**



industrial and transportation infrastructure, will be crucial to re-energizing the economy and creating a stronger, more resilient country.

While the government has allocated more than \$180 billion over 12 years in infrastructure funding, most of this money has been committed already. There is a need for additional short- and medium-term post-pandemic investment for projects that can generate immediate jobs, be completed quickly, and contribute to growth after the economic downturn caused by the pandemic. We recommend the federal government to focus on **co-investment programs** to work in tandem and leverage the capacity and reach of the private sector. As we have seen, there is strength in numbers. There are an immense number of shovel-ready capital projects ready to go – including ones at our own terminal – where federal investment or financial support can unlock and increase the effectiveness of private investment. This cooperation between government and the private sector will create lasting benefits for the country – modernized infrastructure, job creation, and large-scale economic growth. Investing in infrastructure is not just a “nice to have”; these projects are crucial to ensuring the safe and consistent flow of Canadian resources and goods, promoting Canadian exports, and ensuring Canadians have well-paying jobs.

Regional and rural economic development

As a business based in northern British Columbia, we see firsthand the need for economic development to create more resilient rural economies. RTI recommends that the federal government **commit to increased support for rural economic development** - not just through temporary support from Regional Development Agencies, but with systematic and large-scale focus on supporting and revitalizing these economies. Without your focus and support, rural economies – which are often key sources of wealth generation and crucial links in import and export value chains – will not share equitably in the benefits of post-pandemic recovery.

Indigenous job creation

At Ridley Terminals, our relationship with our Indigenous partners is vitally important to the success of our business and to our local community. The Lax Kw'alaams and Metlakatla Nations are not only owners of Ridley, but also, our partners in employment and economic opportunities.

We urge the federal government to **make Indigenous job creation a priority as part of pandemic recovery.**, consistent with a broader recognition of the differential impacts the pandemic has had. Many Indigenous communities have been hard hit by the economic effects of the pandemic, and stimulating job creation will bring benefits not just to Indigenous communities, but to wider regions. As many Indigenous communities are in rural and northern areas, this economic stimulus will also help energize broader regional economic development.



A resilient supply chain

The dramatic events of 2020 have shown the importance of keeping Canadian supply chains open and resilient. Being able to efficiently move goods within Canada, as well as export our natural resources to our global trading partners, is crucial to our nation's economic health. Potential disruptions to our transportation supply chain, either through future waves of the pandemic or through other crises, underscore the need to have multiple export pathways available to ensure the steady flow of goods. In British Columbia, we have seen the implications of disruptions in Vancouver and the Lower Mainland having negative economic effects that reach not just across Western Canada but into the rest of the country.

RTI recommends that the government **expand the National Trade Corridors Fund** to help diversify the country's supply chain and to ensure that goods may be exported and imported, that crucial supplies can reach their destinations, and that the country is less vulnerable to economic disruption.

Conclusion

As Ridley Terminals starts its next chapter as a private company, we look forward to providing opportunities to the government to re-start and revitalize not just the economy of northern British Columbia, but the larger Canadian economy. We encourage the committee to consider our recommendations as to the direction of post-pandemic economic recovery. We look forward to working with you to help make these goals a reality.

Thank you,

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