



RIDLEY TERMINALS INC.

# Driving a resilient, inclusive economic restart through infrastructure and community partnerships

Ridley Terminals Inc. submission for pre-budget consultations  
in advance of the 2021 Budget

Submitted by:

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Aug. 7, 2020



**Recommendations:**

1. That the Government of Canada, recognizing the vital importance of the National Trade Corridors Fund (NTCF) in sustaining Canada's supply chain performance, exports and economic growth, **increase NTCF funding** significantly to support further infrastructure spending on growth-oriented, shovel-ready projects and job creation as Canada builds a more vibrant and inclusive economy post-pandemic.
2. That the Government of Canada **prioritize rural and northern economic development, particularly through engaging with Indigenous communities in business partnerships**, as we work to equitably revitalize the economy and ensure Canadians in all parts of the country benefit.



## **Overview**

Thank you for this opportunity to take part in these important pre-budget consultations. We strongly recommend that the government expand the NTCF substantially in the post-COVID period to help diversify the country's supply chain, eliminate export bottlenecks, and drive economic renewal on an inclusive basis for all Canadians and all regions.

We also recommend the government ensure rural, and Indigenous economies are supported, and that our trade corridors and supply chains are supported by clear, consistent policy and regulation that encourages export of our natural resources, jobs and economic sustainability.

## **Canada's Northern Trade Corridor Marine Terminal**

Ridley Terminals Inc. (RTI), with the support of our part-owners the Coast Tsimshian Lax Kw'alaams Band and Metlakatla First Nation, and our partners in the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, Local 523, welcome the opportunity to share our perspectives with the Government of Canada on the crucial re-start of the Canadian economy and recovery from the pandemic.

RTI is a marine bulk handling terminal in Prince Rupert, whose operations play a critical role in British Columbia's northern economy and in Canada's northern trade corridor.

Under new leadership since its 2019 privatization, our company is at the forefront of important economic partnerships with Indigenous people, with a significant equity position held by the Coast Tsimshian Lax Kw'alaams Band and Metlakatla First Nation. In cooperation with our local partners, RTI is working hard to secure the terminal's full potential and long-term growth, while helping to sustain our local economy.

## **The Impetus for a Renewed Focus on Trade**

COVID-19 has created uncertainty in our country and in the daily lives of Canadians. We thank Parliamentarians and the federal government for their hard work to help protect Canadians and their livelihoods, including your focus on the importance of infrastructure for rebuilding the economy.

We at RTI are proud that we have been able to maintain our essential support of Canada's northern trade corridor and not only have we been able to retain all our current staff; we have created new jobs in 2020. Despite uncertainty in international markets, we have also been able to increase our volume of trade this year, and look



forward to working with government to help continue to contribute to the rebuilding the economy.

As we now tackle the vital effort to create an equitable, Canada-wide economic recovery, Canada has the opportunity to set a new path for our economic future – one that will see full participation by Canada’s Indigenous people and by rural and remote communities.

We believe the path forward, and our primary recommendation, is for the federal government to renew its commitment to the National Trade Corridors Fund with a significant increase in funding. This program has proven to be extremely useful and has the potential to be even more valuable than ever at a time when the need to diversify and strengthen our export capabilities and secure Canada’s supply chains has become apparent. A substantial increase in funding will allow the NTCF program to renew its role as a key driver of regional and rural economic development, Indigenous job creation and skills development, industrial infrastructure development, and stronger, more resilient economic supply networks.

#### **Recommendation 1**

**That the Government of Canada, recognizing the vital importance of the National Trade Corridors Fund (NTCF) in sustaining supply chain performance, exports and economic growth, increase NTCF funding significantly to support more infrastructure spending on growth-oriented, shovel-ready projects and job creation as Canada builds a more vibrant and inclusive economy post-pandemic.**

We appreciate the speed at which the government reacted to the COVID-19 crisis with emergency measures to keep businesses afloat and Canadians employed. Now, as the federal government looks to help the economy recover and “build better,” we believe one of the most important available tools will be continuing and expanded investment in core infrastructure.

The value of infrastructure investments is well established, particularly those that are, in the words of Infrastructure Minister Catherine McKenna, “shovel-ready and shovel-worthy.” The Economic Strategy Tables initiated by Innovation, Science and Industry Minister Navdeep Bains concluded that upgrading infrastructure is “the foundation to achieving our growth targets.” The report added that Canada should prioritize infrastructure that opens new export capability. And the importance of such investments has been driven home by the threat to supply chains during the pandemic and the rise in recent years of trade uncertainties that have strongly reinforced the need to diversify Canada’s overseas markets. The importance of this was made clear just recently by the Five Eyes nations Ministers of Finance.



The \$2 billion NTCF, itself part of the \$180 billion, 12-year Investing in Canada Plan, has been a highly valuable program. But most of this funding is already committed. With the enormous job of developing a more productive, forward-looking economy now at hand, we urge the government to set the stage for long-term growth and inclusive prosperity through the judicious and generous use of the existing NTCF, buoyed by a large increase in its funding envelope.

Investing in infrastructure, particularly Canadian export trade, industrial and transportation infrastructure, will be crucial to re-energizing the economy and creating a stronger, more resilient country. The kind of projects supported by NTCF will be crucial to ensuring the safe and consistent flow of Canadian resources and goods, promoting Canadian exports, and ensuring Canadians have stable, long-term, well-paying jobs.

Infrastructure, as the government is aware, also holds potential to aid in a quick economic rebound. 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.

### **Recommendation 2**

**That the Government of Canada prioritize rural and northern economic development, particularly by engaging with Indigenous communities in business partnerships, as we work to equitably revitalize the economy and ensure Canadians in all parts of the country benefit.**

At RTI we work closely with our Indigenous partners to build employment-ready skills, create jobs, increase economic and social capacity within communities and drive the region's economic growth.

It is crucial that programs and supports focus on stimulating rural and Indigenous communities like those in northern B.C. — whose economies are largely based on natural resources and export trade — to seize this opportunity to energize communities and recover from the economic damage of the pandemic and realize their full potential. Doing so has taken on additional importance as Canadians strive to build more economic partnerships with Indigenous communities.

Economic opportunity is important for all Canadians. However, shovel-ready projects that deliver lasting social benefits will help us recover and make us stronger. We are a nation built on natural resources and the ability for Indigenous communities to realize the benefits of those natural resources is critical.



## **Conclusion**

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, is crucial to our nation's economic health.

Potential disruptions to the transportation supply chain, either through future pandemics or through other crises, underscore the need for multiple export pathways to ensure the uninterrupted 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 through Western Canada, but right across the country.

It is important that our trade corridors be supported and that, as new programs and regulatory requirements are put in place, those who are creating jobs have the support from the Government of Canada through policy and regulatory requirements that encourage trade.

Our supply chains are built on complex networks of relationships between business, government, and communities, and we seek policies and regulatory structure that will ensure business can grow and operate.