

The Honourable Omar Alghabra, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Transportation
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
Canada

Subject: Western Canada Trade Gateway & Corridor Initiative (WCTG&CI)

Minister Alghabra,

On behalf of the Canadian Construction Association (CCA) and the Western Canada Roadbuilders & Heavy Construction Association (WCR&HCA), we are writing you today to open discussions about opportunities to unlock Canada's economic growth potential through international trade.

Western Canada's continental corridors and its access to deep-water ports make the region indispensable to Canada's trade profile. Accessing Asian markets through Western Canada is key to expanding Canada's global trade reach.¹ Canada can harness this trade potential by significantly recapitalizing its trade corridor fund with long-term, strategic investments in trade-enabling infrastructure to drive Western Canada's and our nation's future economic growth.

An important first step to accessing Asian market opportunities can be made via the proposed Western Canada Trade Gateway & Corridor Initiative (WCTG&CI). We encourage the federal government to build on past successes of trade corridor funding by launching a cost-sharing program as proposed by the WCTG&CI² with federal contributions and the expectation of leveraging additional public and private sector investments based in part on the experience of the Asia Pacific Gateway and Corridor Initiative (APGCI).

Canada's transportation investments have fallen, causing 30 per cent of businesses to cite transportation infrastructure as an obstacle to exporting.³ Due to the sporadic nature of Canada's spending on transportation infrastructure, investments have been inconsistent, inefficient and less productive.⁴ Analysis of current levels of

¹ The Asia market offers the globe's fastest, annual growing middle class: Indonesia (7 million); India (20 million); and China (35 million).

² We have successful templates that can serve as models for a Western Canada trade gateway and corridor initiative: Asia Pacific Gateway and Corridor Initiative (APGCI), the National Policy Framework for Strategic Gateways and Trade Corridors, the Ontario-Quebec Continental Gateway, and the Atlantic Gateway & Trade Corridor, to name but a few.

³ Annual investments in infrastructure of 0.6% of GDP in the last 5 years, half the level of Australia's investments. Sources: OECD Transport Infrastructure Investment / Statistics Canada. [Table 33-10-0104-01 Difficulty of obstacles when exporting or attempting to export goods or services, by industry and enterprise size](#)

⁴ The US has a similar five-year average investment in infrastructure as a percentage of GDP to Canada, but Canada's investment volatility is 10 times higher. Source: Statistics Canada. [Table 33-10-0104-01 Difficulty of obstacles when exporting or attempting to export goods or services, by industry and enterprise size.](#)



investments in trade infrastructure revealed that for every \$1 million invested in transportation infrastructure approximately 151 jobs can be created, and export-related GDP activity can grow up to \$17 million, delivering sustained economic growth to all Canadians.⁵

The strategic outcome of the WCTG&CI is to create a globally recognized, efficient network of trade gateways and corridors system in Western Canada, supporting economic growth through increased trade productivity and competitiveness for all Canadians. Restoring Canada's transportation reliability has the power to transform Canada into a reliable trade partner and to regain investors' confidence.

Thank you, Minister, for your leadership and for taking initiative on this important issue.

Respectfully submitted,



⁵ Estimates based and calculated using Statistics Canada Table 36-10-0222-01 Gross domestic product, expenditure-based, provincial and territorial, annual, [Table 36-10-0608-01](#) Infrastructure Economic Accounts, investment and net stock by asset, industry, and asset function, and [Table 36-10-0013-01 Input-output multipliers, summary level](#).