



INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE & WAREHOUSE UNION CANADA

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January 27, 2020

Richard Purnell
Executive Director, Tax Policy Branch
BC Government
PO Box 9547 Stn. Prov. Govt.
Victoria, BC, V8W 9C5
By Email: Richard.purnell@gov.bc.ca

Dear Mr. Purnell,

Re: Port Tax Cap

I write to you today as a follow up to our previous letters, August 27 and September 12, 2019 regarding the cap on port taxes.

We are still encouraging the Government of British Columbia to lift the cap or have a higher cap for terminals that choose to automate port workers jobs away since the report my office commissioned which can be viewed on our webpage;

<https://ilwu.ca/automation-will-kill-thousands-of-jobs-at-bc-marine-terminals-see-the-prism-report/>.

The economic losses to local communities when terminals automate is substantial. The Provincial Government cannot allow this to happen. In our talks with our local mayors, councilors, boards of trades and others, we have come across many who have the same concerns. It is the responsibility of government to protect its communities. We have seen in the past and will most likely see in the future, that corporations if left unchecked will do nothing to protect the people of the communities where we all work and live.

When we requested the province to lift the cap on port taxes, it was to allow the communities to tax these corporations. To help communities like Prince Rupert, Delta, Vancouver, Burnaby, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody and New Westminster to recoup the loss of income due to the loss of wages port worker could earn and spend in their communities. If this goes unchecked, the monies that should go to the workers, and

then in turn to the different levels of government and local businesses through taxation, will be going directly into the pockets of foreign owned businesses or money management firms, never to be seen again in this province or country. This would be a travesty if allowed to happen. The Provincial Government is at a crossroads, you will be writing the future for many communities in this province with your next step.

Which is why we request a roundtable of all parties so all sides can be heard in this very important matter. If this is not possible then we urge you to lift the port tax cap on terminals that choose to automate away workers jobs for the sole purpose of profit!

Kind regards,



Rob Ashton
President, ILWU Canada

Cc: Mayors, Kennedy Stewart, Vancouver
George Harvie, Delta
Mike Hurley, Burnaby
Brad West, Port Coquitlam
Jonathan Coté, New Westminster
Rob Vagramov, Port Moody