



Western Economic
Diversification Canada

Diversification de l'économie
de l'Ouest Canada

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Your File Votre référence

Our File Notre référence

A-2020-00034

Via e-mail

July 7, 2020

Mr. Dylan Robertson
501- 150 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1P 5A4
dylan.robertson@freepress.mb.ca

Dear Mr. Robertson:

This letter is in response to your request made pursuant to the *Access to Information Act* (the Act), which was received by Western Economic Diversification Canada on June 30, 2020 requesting access to the following record:

“Briefing Notes from Western EcDev: Meeting with the Deputy Minister of Global Affairs Canada 2020-03-13 Ref # Edm200304-17087.”

Enclosed, you will find the record you requested. Please note that some of the information, contained within this record, has been withheld as per the following provisions of the Act:

- 21(1)(a) advice or recommendations,
- 21(1)(b) consultations or deliberations, and
- 21(1)(c) positions or plans developed for the purpose of negotiations.

Under the Act, you are entitled to bring a written complaint regarding the processing of your request, to the Information Commissioner of Canada, within 60 days after receipt of this letter. In the event you decide to avail yourself of this right, your notice of complaint can be submitted through the [online complaint form](#) or mailed to:

The Information Commissioner of Canada
30 Victoria Street, 7th Floor
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 1H3

Telephone: (613) 995-2410 (National Capital Region)
1-800-267-0441 (Toll-free)

You may obtain additional information on the complaint process by visiting the website of the Office of the Information Commissioner at www.oic-ci.gc.ca.

Should you have any queries regarding the completion of your request, please Janet Cummings, ATIP Officer, by email at janet.cummings@canada.ca.

Sincerely,

Michelle Owens
A/Deputy Access to Information and Privacy Coordinator

Enclosure



BRIEFING NOTE FOR THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR INFORMATION ONLY

TITLE: Meeting with the Deputy Minister of Global Affairs Canada

SUMMARY:

- You requested a meeting with Deputy Minister Marta Morgan as a chance to catch up. This also presents as an opportunity to highlight other western Canadian challenges and opportunities related to trade and investment.

Snapshot of Trade in western Canada:

- International trade disputes, protectionist policies and trade infrastructure continue to hamper western Canadian exports.
 - There is a high reliance on the US market. More than 70% of western exports by value (\$150 billion) are destined for the US.
 - Investment in western Canada has declined sharply. Annual capital expenditures in the West fell by \$26.7 billion in 2015, dropped another \$17.1 billion in 2016, and have not yet recovered.
 - In 2019, canola exports to China decreased by 70 percent year over year due to trade actions against Canada.
 - In 2017, India placed tariffs on Canadian pulse crops, disproportionately affecting Saskatchewan compared to other provinces.
 - Transportation bottlenecks are limiting western Canada's export market diversification.
 - When pipeline capacity does not keep up with demand, the impact spreads to other modes of transportation, particularly railways.
 - The Lower Mainland of BC is the largest nexus of international trade infrastructure in Canada. Increasing capacity is a pressing issue for all shippers in the West.
 - As of March 10, there was a line up of 42 grain-shipping vessels waiting at the Port of Vancouver and 11 at the Port of Prince Rupert.

2020 Meeting with DM Hannaford:

- On January 14, 2020, you met with John Hannaford, DM of International Trade, to discuss the trade pillar of Grow West.

Churchill, Manitoba, and the Arctic and Northern Policy Framework:

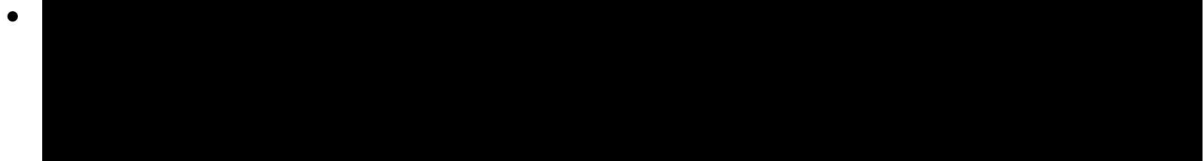
- Minister Champagne, in his capacity as Minister of Foreign Affairs, is mandated to work with colleagues to defend arctic sovereignty and implement the Arctic and Northern Policy Framework.

Prepared by:	Name: Michael Murphy Title: Policy Analyst	3/8/2020	Phone number: 613-218-5500	CCM # Edm200304- 17087
Approved by:	Name: David Dewar Title: Director	3/8/2020	Phone number: 613-316-8730	

- Further development of the Port of Churchill in Manitoba can help fulfill these mandates:
 - The prospect of increased arctic shipping is causing geopolitical tensions between Canada, China, and Russia. China and Russia are proactively investing billions upgrading military bases, conducting land surveys, and planning for future transportation infrastructure. Due to climate change, investments will continue to intensify and outpace Canada's progress, which could threaten our nation's sovereignty.
 - Northern Manitoba is well-positioned to play a role in securing sovereignty in Canada's Arctic region. The Arctic Gateway Group Limited Partnership (AGG) has a vision to expand the Hudson Bay Rail line and Port of Churchill to position northern Manitoba as a trade and transportation hub. Expansion will increase the flow of goods, which will create jobs and skills-training opportunities, increase trade, and lower the cost of goods and services that northern communities rely on.
 - Along with helping defend arctic sovereignty, these outcomes contribute to the Arctic and Northern Policy Framework goals of closing northern infrastructure gaps and strengthening the northern economy.

Foreign Trade Zones:

- While there is no precise definition of what constitutes a foreign trade zone (FTZ), the term generally refers to a specific location within a country that is officially designated for eligibility for tariff and tax exemptions with respect to the purchase or importation of raw materials, components or finished goods.



Western Canada Growth Strategy:

- Global Affairs Canada (GAC) is a key partner in the Western Canada Growth Strategy as co-lead of the trade pillar, along with Infrastructure Canada.
 - The trade pillar looks to increase export diversification of western companies by maximizing the use of free trade agreements, reducing infrastructure bottlenecks, and increasing coordination among federal and provincial partners.
 - Members of the Grow West team recently met with GAC's Trade Commissioner Service (TCS) and CanExport Branch in Ottawa. The meeting was an opportunity to provide an update on Grow West, recap DM discussions in January 2020, and discuss priorities.

Barbara Motzney
Assistant Deputy Minister
Policy and Strategic Direction

Date