



March 13, 2020

BCMEA and ILWU Joint Statement in Response to COVID-19 Developments

The International Longshore and Warehouse Union Canada (ILWU Canada) and the British Columbia Maritime Employers Association (BCMEA) are proactively working together with key stakeholders to address the potential impact of COVID-19 on operations at BC Ports. The health and safety of our employees on the waterfront is our top priority.

British Columbia's ports play a vital role in the BC and Canadian economies. Our goal is to work cooperatively to ensure worker safety, keep cargo flowing and share credible and timely information that is relevant to ILWU dockworkers, BCMEA members and other key stakeholders who rely on BC's Ports.

Over the past six weeks, the ILWU and BCMEA have been working collaboratively and maintaining close communication with each other and the relevant federal and provincial government agencies, port authorities and other Waterfront stakeholders.

There are currently no impacts to operations on the BC Waterfront. However, due to the fluid state of COVID-19, we are actively working on enhancing safety and communications protocols to mitigate the spread of illness and ensure that operations continue at all BC Ports. This enhanced communications effort will also include Federal and Provincial authorities and other key Waterfront stakeholders, to ensure a rapid response as the situation evolves.

The ILWU and BCMEA will issue updates as necessary. Our primary objective is to ensure worker safety and continued operations at all Canadian West Coast Ports.

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