

**SPEAKING POINTS FOR
THE HONOURABLE LISA RAITT
MINISTER OF TRANSPORT**

**TO THE CALGARY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
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CALGARY, ALBERTA**

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Introduction

- Je vous remercie pour cette présentation.
- *(Thank you for that introduction.)*
- Plus tôt ce matin, ma collègue députée Joan Crockatt et moi avons eu le grand plaisir de dialoguer avec certaines des femmes les plus influentes en gestion de la chaîne d'approvisionnement de Calgary.
- (Earlier this morning, my colleague MP Joan Crockatt and I, were fortunate enough to sit down with some of Calgary's top women in supply chain management).
- As many of you may know, I am a very proud supporter of women in the workforce, as well as women in executive roles.
- I'd like to take this opportunity to recognize someone in this room. Siân Matthews, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Canada Post Corporation.
- Recently, I appointed Siân Matthews as Chairperson of the Board of Directors to the Canada Post Corporation, for a four-year term. Mrs. Matthews is the first female, full time, appointee that Canada Post has ever had. Her experience as a Member of the Board as well as her extensive legal and financial experience will be invaluable to the Corporation.
- I'd like to also thank all of the women, and men, who joined us this morning and participated in our insightful discussion.
- As many of you may be aware, Parliament returned last week, for the first time in this New Year.
- And for me, the first time since my medical leave.
- And let me tell you, we've come back ready and we know we have a lot of work to do.
- Of course, just as Canadians are proud of our country, we conservatives, are proud of our record.
- But, more importantly, we're looking to the future.
- We love our country, and Canadians sent us here to do a job.
- We never forget that.

- We're focused on what matters to Canadians, we're here to serve hardworking Canadian families, the people who pay their taxes, play by the rules and are trying to make ends meet in a challenging world.
- And as we return to Parliament, we are focused on the issues that matter to them;
- Economic and financial security, creating and protecting jobs, lower taxes for families, and keeping Canada and Canadians safe, in a dangerous and uncertain world.
- That's what Canadians care about!
- The reason I am here today is to talk about the importance of transportation, and what this government is doing to support all modes, and ensure they remain competitive and prosperous in the years to come.
- The importance of transportation in Canada
- At almost 80 years old, Transport Canada is one of the country's oldest government departments.
- That's because transportation has always been essential to this nation's development
- Canada lives and breathes by getting people and goods from one place to another, so our government sees transportation as a key tool to support our trade agenda and to fuel our economic prosperity.
- We realize what has taken place in global markets in the short term, but our plan is to build long-term prosperity and, to do so, we must look ahead.
- As Wayne Gretzky says, "A good hockey player plays where the puck is, but a great hockey player plays where the puck is going to be."
- To build our economy for the future and to create the jobs that will accompany that, we must continue to make smart transportation investments for future growth.
- That is why, since 2006, we have concluded free trade agreements with 38 countries.
- Last year, we finalized trade deals with Europe and South Korea – tripling the number of countries Canada has trade agreements with.
- These agreements are about opportunities, growth and jobs.
- Together with the North American Free Trade Agreement and all the other deals our Government has done, Canada's world-class products, our workers and

investors will have virtually unfettered access to countries representing more than half the world's economy.

- We're also investing, big-time – the biggest federal investments ever – in infrastructure.
- We've launched a massive program – over 75 billion dollars – in contributions to all manner of provincial, territorial, community, and, of course, our own federal infrastructure projects.
- We're building and modernizing the roads and bridges, airports and railroads, wharves and harbours, we all depend upon.
- This, alone, is creating thousands of jobs, and will support economic growth for many years to come.
- The big picture then, is that in Canada's entire history, there have never been more Canadians working than there are today – never before!
- And, of course, friends, Canadians must benefit from that, which means that, when they get those jobs, they must be able to keep the money they're earning.
- It is why we are working to ensure that our infrastructure is safe and modern.
- And it is why we are promoting public and private transportation partnerships, both in Canada and abroad.

Investments in trade and transportation

- Building and maintaining transportation systems and infrastructure has real benefits.
- As you all know, moving goods and people as efficiently as possible reduces business costs and promotes both growth and employment.
- Over the past several years, our Government has accomplished a great deal to promote and support our transportation systems.
- For example, we launched the Asia-Pacific Gateway and Corridor Initiative and to date, have invested 1.4 billion dollars in Asia-Pacific Gateway projects.
- In partnership with all four western provinces, municipalities and the private sector, this accounts for a total project value of approximately 3.5 billion dollars.
- These investments aim to improve the movement of goods and people by addressing bottlenecks and improving multimodal connections.

- They include:
 - 17 projects to construct roads, bridges and bypasses;
 - 20 projects to improve rail corridors; and
 - 10 projects to improve flow at ports and transportation facilities.
- This will strengthen our country's ability to move goods efficiently between Canada and international markets and will also improve operations and safety at many of our transportation hubs.
- We have also backed trade by dealing with the nuts and bolts of transportation.
- Since 2007, we have announced more than 40 strategic infrastructure investments in nine provinces, under the 2.1 billion-dollar Gateways and Border Crossings Fund.
- These commitments will help to improve the transportation system and support international trade.
- In addition, we are providing 75 billion dollars for public infrastructure over the next 10 years.
- This includes the 53 billion dollar New Building Canada Plan – the largest and longest federal infrastructure plan in our nation's history.
- It will provide funding for provincial, territorial and municipal infrastructure, so that our road, rail, port and air facilities continue to move goods and people safely, securely and efficiently.

The supply chain and cooperation with the United States

- At the base of our actions is the key role that transportation plays in trade on this continent.
- More than two million jobs in Canada and more than eight million jobs in the United States depend on trade and investment between our two countries.
- Of course, the North American Free Trade Agreement has been a solid foundation and has benefitted all three of our economies.
- Cooperation through NAFTA has created a North America where Canadian, American and Mexican companies do more than make and sell things to each other.

- Increasingly, they make things together, and in fact, more than half of Canadian manufacturing exports to the U.S. are intermediate exports of products produced jointly in both countries.
- This requires integrated supply chains, which is why we are developing a North American transportation system.
- Its aim is to streamline procedures, harmonize transportation regulations and customs requirements, and build on our current trusted traveller programs.
- Our efforts to harmonize our regulations and systems across Canada and across the continent will support both transportation safety and efficiency.
- This kind of partnership between regions and with our American neighbours is essential.
- Because, at the end of the day, we share common objectives with our continental neighbours: increased trade, economic growth and job creation.

Grain transportation

- The importance of trade both on this continent and with global markets demands a firm commitment to maintaining a reliable supply chain in Canada.
- Our government demonstrated this commitment last spring when we acted to address a backlog of grain on the Prairies.
- Last March, we introduced an Order in Council, and then legislation, to get grain moving faster in the short term.
- It required CN and CP Rail to incrementally increase their capacity so that each would carry minimum volumes of grain each week.
- This order was reinforced by monetary penalties. And in December, the two companies were each assessed penalties, based on weeks where they had not met these minimum amounts.
- The volume targets remain in place until the end of March 2015.
- I know there were both supporters and opponents of the volume requirements, but such measures were necessary to help shippers move products to market and maintain Canada's reputation as a world-class agricultural commodity supplier.

- Given that we are the world's fifth largest exporter of grain, that reputation is important.

Air transportation and its economic contributions

- Supporting trade through transportation, however, is not only about moving products.
- In our global marketplace, we must also move people, whether they are Canadians, visiting tourists or overseas business travellers looking to invest here.
- That is why, both inside and outside of Canada, air transportation is a key economic enabler.
- Strong air connections can promote higher levels of foreign direct investment, and influence where companies decide to locate or invest.
- They are crucial to moving high-value and time sensitive cargo.
- And, because air transportation reaches regions that are not easily accessible by other modes, it provides labour mobility by transporting the people who help us to harvest our natural resources.
- Building a stronger air sector takes place on the ground as well as in the sky.
- Some of you will recall what some of our airports used to look like when they were under direct government management.
- Look at them now.
- We have truly world-class facilities and several are winning international recognition for service.
- I know that Calgary International Airport has been expanding and opened a new runway last summer.
- I'm aware of the concerns it has generated about aircraft noise – I've been involved with a similar issue in the Toronto region.
- To address this issue, last year we contacted 11 major airports in Canada to ask for their input on how to minimize the impacts of noise, as well as how to improve accountability and transparency of the decisions we make about it.
- Through this process and cooperation from NAV CANADA, I hope we are going to be able to address aircraft noise and reduce the number of affected people by it.

- But stepping back from that specific matter, I believe our air transportation system is open, competitive and does a sound job of safely connecting Canadians to each other and to markets around the world.

Canada Transportation Act

- Last June, I launched a comprehensive, multi-modal review of the Canada Transportation Act.
- The Review is being led by the Honourable David Emerson, someone who is familiar to many of you.
- The rationale for this review is simple.
- It has been 14 years since we last comprehensively reviewed transportation legislation in Canada and the world has changed.
- This is an opportunity to examine our transportation policy and ensure it contains modern measures for modern times.
- It will allow us to look for efficiencies to ensure regulation keeps pace with industry.
- As well, this review will help us consider how our transportation system can be leveraged to support growth and increase our domestic and international competitiveness.
- You can follow the progress of the entire process on the Canada Transportation Act Review Website, which is linked to the Transport Canada site.

<http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/ctareview2014/canada-transportation-act-review.html>

<http://www.tc.gc.ca/fra/examenltc2014/examen-loi-transports-canada.html>

- Mr. Emerson has posted a discussion paper there, and if you want to consider what's going on in transportation in Canada right now, it is worth your time.
- I am confident the Review will produce solid recommendations to help Canada map out its transportation plans for the future.

Transportation's role in the economy and safety

- Our government will continue to deliver on our commitment to working with Canadian and international partners to build transportation systems that connect Canadians to each other and to the world.
- These investments in transportation and infrastructure are paying off.
- Since the global recession, we have achieved the best job creation record of any G-7 country, the strongest income growth, and one of the best economic performances in the G-7.
- As I'm sure many of you know, my ministerial portfolio covers a vast, primarily regulatory, body, so before closing, I want to mention safety.
- Safety is this governments absolute priority.

- We can put resources into many projects, but we must always remember that transportation starts with people.
- And whether it is through regulation, training and skills development, or through investing in projects and programs that strengthen safety around all modes of transportation, safety provides a key link in the supply chain.
- Not only does its help protect people and communities, but it is also important for our economy.
- To pursue international trade as a way to fuel our economy, we need traders and all Canadians to have confidence in the safety of our transportation systems and modes.

Conclusion

- Through a safe, secure, efficient and environmentally responsible transportation system, we can support conditions that will help to create jobs, promote growth and support communities and families who live in them.
- As governments and our partners in the private sector work together to strengthen transportation, it is worth noting again that transportation not only moves our economy, but also contributes to it by creating jobs and promoting growth.
- And while demand for Canadian products vary over time, it is important that we remain focused on building stronger, safer and more efficient transportation networks.
- We will always need them to move our products and people, and they cannot be developed overnight.
- But we can't and we won't do it in isolation.
- Nous continuerons à travailler avec des groupes comme le vôtre pour connaître vos préoccupations et tirer des leçons de votre expérience.
- *(We will continue to work with groups such as yours, to hear your concerns and learn from your experiences.)*
- Encore une fois merci de m'avoir invitée à me joindre à vous.
- *(Thank you again for this invitation to join you.)*