

BC Wharf Operators Association

Feedback Report to the Port of Metro Vancouver via the Gateway Improvement Program Advisory Committee on the Proposed Gateway Infrastructure Fee.

Prepared by Ignite Management Ltd.
February 28, 2010

Summary Points:

Most operators understand and accept that it is appropriate for PMV to be implementing a fee program to recoup some of the costs expended under the Gateway Infrastructure Program with the following caveats:

Total expenditures of \$167 Million by PMV included payment for improvements of which some were upgrades to maintain a level of service to port tenants and some were more community related. In the past such improvements, being part of an ongoing upgrade program, have been paid for out of PMV general revenues and/or harbour dues. These amounts should not be recovered from additional fees to terminal operators.

None of the proposed fee structures demonstrate an appropriate link between the fee and the benefits which accrue to specific trade areas and individual operators within those jurisdictions.

In order for any fee to be deemed "fair", it must be linked directly to the benefit accruing to the operator paying the fee.

The consultation process was inconsistent between trade areas. This has led to varying levels of acceptance of the appropriateness of a fee.

Some operators do not see benefit from the expansions and feel any proposed fee is inappropriate.

There are multiple beneficiaries to the infrastructure expansion that fall outside the Gateway Improvement Program. It is inappropriate for Wharf Operators to pay for benefits which accrue to these groups.

