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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Demand continues to drive growth at Port Metro Vancouver

Mid-year cargo statistics show 1.5 per cent growth over similar period last year

Vancouver, B.C.: Port Metro Vancouver today released its 2015 mid-year statistics, showing continued growth in trade through the Pacific Gateway.

Total cargo was 70.3 million metric tonnes, an increase of 1.5 per cent over the same period in 2014. "We are seeing continued growth of trade through Port Metro Vancouver as Canadian demand for foreign products and international demand for Canadian resources continue to increase," said Robin Silvester, President and Chief Executive Officer, Port Metro Vancouver. "Our status as North America's most diversified port is significant as overall cargo grew in the first half of 2015 despite some softening markets and global economic uncertainty."

Increases in wheat, sulphur, potash, lumber and consumer goods boosted results, while declines were registered in coal and petroleum products. Movement of breakbulk and bulk dry cargo rose 2 per cent and 1 per cent respectively. Trade using containers showed substantial growth, with an 8 per cent jump in the number of twenty-foot-equivalent units. Continued growth in container numbers on the west coast of Canada has been projected for some time, but this higher-than-expected jump is likely due to the impact of U.S. cargo diverted to Vancouver earlier this year in response to labour unrest at U.S. west coast ports, and deflated results last year due to the 28-day Vancouver trucking dispute in March 2014.

"The port continues to grow in response to increasing consumer and international demand," continued Silvester. "It remains critical that we continue working with government and other stakeholders to build related infrastructure and maintain the supply of available land to support trade and goods movement."

Auto volumes rebounded in the first half of 2015, up 7 per cent, as Canadian demand for vehicles from Asia increased and North American manufacturers struggled to manage growth and shifts in the Canadian market so far this year. Also in the first half of 2015, environmental initiatives continued to be a top priority for Port Metro Vancouver as we announced [Shore power for container vessels](#) and the [winners of the Blue Circle Award](#) which recognizes environmental stewardship of marine carriers as part of the [EcoAction program](#). Port Metro Vancouver was also [recognized as a responsible leader in sustainability](#) for the second year in a row by Corporate Knights. Port Metro Vancouver is Canada's largest port, handling one fifth of the value of Canada's total trade in goods.

[Click here to read the whole release with background material](#)

Harper forgot about veterans. They haven't forgotten about him.

By [Tom Beaver and Ron Clarke](#) | Aug 21, 2015 4:28 pm

Last year, retired general Rick Hillier, the former head of the Canadian military, [spoke](#) about high rates of suicide and mental anguish among Canadian soldiers returning home:

"I do not think we had any idea the scale and scope of what the impact would be. I truly do not. This is beyond a medical issue. I think many of our young men and women have lost confidence in our country to support them."

And why would they not, given the callousness of the Harper government? In the past decade Conservatives closed Veterans Affairs offices, cut 900 jobs, clawed back benefits, killed lifetime pensions for Afghanistan veterans and failed to spend \$1.13 billion of the Veterans Affairs budget - but found money to increase advertising and ceremonies for politicians to honour veterans.

Here are seven ways the Harper government has waged war on its own veterans:

1. Conservatives kill lifetime pensions for veterans

On April 6, 2006, the Conservative government enacted the New Veterans Charter, which represented the greatest change to veteran care since the Second World War. While the bill was conceived and passed by the previous Liberal government, Harper [championed](#) the policy shift even after it came to light it was failing veterans. It erased the obligation for Canada to care for injured veterans and their families and replaced life-long monthly pain-and-suffering payments (in place since the First World War) with a lump sum payment.

By removing the right to a pension, injured and disabled veterans [lost](#) between 30 and 90 per cent of their entitlements - and even those payments and benefits were subject to clawback.

Lump sum payments for permanently disabled soldiers have proven so meagre that, as Veterans ombudsman Pat Strogan [put](#) it, "deputy ministers make more on average in one year than a person who loses two legs in Afghanistan can expect to be paid out for the rest of their life."

When veterans took the Conservative government to court, the government [spent](#) \$700,000 to argue it was under no obligation to provide veterans with any special treatment.

Financial Post editor Matt Gurney [summed](#) up Harper's intent, calling the one-time cheques "almost an act of cruelty" that leave injured veterans of recent operations "measurably worse off than they would have been under the old system."

But Harper turned a cold shoulder to veterans like Kevin Berry, who [pleaded](#), "We are left with our wounds, our scars, and the realization that our government has turned its back on us. You have forgotten."

2. Harper minister insults veterans, closes nine veterans offices

Despite numerous reports of service failures and lack of support for veterans, the Harper government [shut down](#) nine Veterans Affairs offices to save \$3.78 million - and in the same year increased its advertising budget by more than \$4 million to buy playoff hockey ads.

The shutdowns laid off 89 employees, leaving eight workers to cover 17,000 veterans. In Sydney, Nova Scotia, one person was to do the work of 13 employees who had handled 4,200 clients.

Harper claimed the office closures would mean better services for veterans.

Last year, then-minister of Veteran Affairs Julian Fantino was [forced](#) to apologize to a delegation of veterans after he showed up late to a scheduled meeting, got in an argument and left. He blamed unions. Veterans called for his resignation, and Fantino was later demoted by Harper.

Given the same Harper government has "billions to spend on tax cuts and other benefits," a *Globe and Mail* headline [asked](#) the obvious question: "Why do the Conservatives treat veterans so poorly?"

3. Auditor General finds Harper government failing veterans

Auditor General Michael Ferguson found the Conservative government was failing returning injured veterans by imposing up to eight months waiting time for mental health help.

"Damning," the *National Post* [called](#) the report, noting the percentage of returned soldiers with mental health issues had increased sixfold between 2002 and 2014. "One statistic that jumped from the report was a 24 per cent refusal rate for veterans applying for disability benefits. That means 3,684 soldiers who believed they needed benefits to deal with mental health issues were refused on first application. After appeals, 2,841 potentially disturbed veterans have been cast adrift - they are not tracked by Veterans Affairs and nobody knows whether they are a danger to themselves or anyone else."

The Conservative government, knowing the report was coming, played misleading defence. It [announced](#) it would inject \$200 million into the system over six years for mental health services - and only later admitted the money would be spent not over six years but over *half a century*.

4. Conservatives slash 900 jobs despite pleas from managers

The Harper government launched the largest cuts to staff at Veterans Affairs in history. When they were finished, nearly 900 jobs - or about one-quarter of the staff - had been cut, with some of the biggest cuts coming in the disability awards branch.

We answered the call from our country to serve. We expected that, if we were fortunate enough to come home, we would be given the support we need to survive. In too many cases, that has not happened.

Senior Veterans Affairs managers have warned every year since 2009 that the department needed more staff to meet the needs of its clients, but the government continued to slash staff and failed to spend millions of dollars allocated to help veterans.

Not a single Conservative MP stood up for veterans; instead, they [rejected](#) a motion to stop the cuts at Veterans Affairs. Result: a [backlog](#) of six to eight months in providing some care to veterans.

The cuts are killing morale within Veterans Affairs; according to a Statistics Canada report, the number of staff saying the quality of their work has suffered has more than doubled since 2008.

Meanwhile, the government [paid out](#) more than \$500,000 in bonuses over two years to Veterans Affairs managers as a reward for cutting budgets.

"We are right now, as a department, failing veterans," [said](#) Cam Cannon Jr., president of Local 80041 of the Union of Veterans Affairs Employees. "We are not doing what we've been mandated to do. Our department has been systematically disembodied limb by limb. Ten-person jobs are being done by two people."

And don't think current Veterans Minister Erin O'Toole isn't well aware of this grim reality. Internal reports warned him "that hundreds of injured veterans were being forced to wait more than four months to hear whether they qualified for disability benefits as the applications were being processed slower than the previous year," [reported](#) the Ottawa Citizen in July.

But so far, real action by the Harper government has been more mirage than reality. Just before calling this election, it [announced](#) 61 new jobs at the VA headquarters in Charlottetown - while failing to note it previously had cut 300 jobs at the centre.

5. More than \$1 billion not spent by ministry to help veterans

While veterans struggled to get claims accepted, live on lump-sum payments and get services they desperately needed, senior bureaucrats hoarded millions of dollars allocated for veterans, [returning](#) to general revenue \$1.13 billion between 2006 and 2014.

For nearly a decade the Conservative government clawed back hundreds of millions of dollars from the budget of Veterans Affairs, money critics say should have gone to help veterans. The Veterans Affairs minister prepared a regular public report showing how the money for the ministry was spent, with details about claims and support. In 2008 the Conservative government announced the report would continue - but the public would be barred from seeing it.

6. Judge orders government to pay \$887 million to vets

The Conservative government spent \$750,000 in legal fees fighting to keep in place a government policy that clawed back millions of dollars annually from more than 4,000 disabled veterans and their families. The government lost and the judge awarded \$34 million in legal costs - which was deducted from the money owed to veterans by Ottawa.

For decades, federal governments clawed back the existing payments to veterans if they were given a disability award. The practice was condemned by the ombudsperson, the Senate and a motion in the House of Commons, but the government refused to act. Finally, the court [ruled](#) that the veterans were right and the government was wrong.

Judge Robert Barnes [found](#) the clawbacks "create a particularly harsh effect on the most seriously disabled Canadian Forces members ... and I reject it unreservedly."

How much money was taken from veterans? The compensation package for past losses was [negotiated](#) at \$887 million, including more than \$80 million in interest. The government [extended](#) the legal settlement to an additional 2,500 veterans and their families at a cost of \$177 million over the next five years.

7. Silencing and smearing veterans who criticize

When Sean Bruyey spoke out against legislation to strip veterans of life-time pensions, he never imagined the government would try and smear his reputation using his own medical records. The Harper government was later forced to apologize for its actions - just one example of the government's attempts to silence and discredit veterans standing up for their rights.

As Bruyey explained, many others who might challenge the department remained quiet because of the power the ministry had to curtail benefits.

Bruyey paid that price personally, as [reported](#) in 2013. "His medical and financial details had been circulated after he criticized the New Veterans Charter. In the minutes of a (Veterans Affairs Canada) conference call, a senior veterans official said, 'It's time to take the gloves off.'"

Privacy commissioner Jennifer Stoddart [ruled](#) that Bruyey's case was "alarming" and the treatment of his personal information "entirely inappropriate." The veteran's sensitive medical and personal information was shared - seemingly with no controls - among departmental officials who had no legitimate need to see it.

Retired colonel Michel Drapeau, a lawyer with expertise in privacy laws, told author [Michael Harris](#) the government's actions were "despicable. It's dishonourable. It's unethical. And also illegal."

But that hasn't stopped the Harper government from vaguely threatening wounded vets who might speak out. Wounded soldiers were required to sign a form saying they would not criticize senior officers on social media. The form was leaked by members of the military who saw it as a way of preventing them from making the case that the New Veterans Charter was not working.

The Harper government's supposed rationale was as insulting as it was shameless. The form, [a government representative](#) told Harris, was for the "protection" of the individuals because those suffering from mental health issues might say things they'd want to take back later.

As veterans, we answered the call from our country to serve. We expected that, if we were fortunate enough to come home, we would be given the support we need to survive. In too many cases, that has not happened.

We believe that Canadians support their veterans. We believe they are also angered by the disrespect shown by the Harper Conservatives over the past 10 years.

Our group, of veterans and supporters, is asking all Canadians to support our campaign - [Anyone But Conservatives](#) - and on Oct. 19 vote to defeat Harper's Conservative government.

This article appeared originally in [The Tyee](#).

[Tom Beaver](#) and [Ron Clarke](#) are co-founders of the veterans' [Anyone But Conservative campaign](#). Both served many years in the Canadian military.

The views, opinions and positions expressed by all [iPolitics](#) columnists and contributors are the author's alone. They do not inherently or expressly reflect the views, opinions and/or positions of [iPolitics](#).

Why Canada needs a federal minimum wage



Wednesday, August 5, 2015

The benefits of paying people decent wages are abundantly clear. A generation ago one full-time minimum wage job was enough to keep someone above the low income line in a large urban area. This has not been the case for some time.

Research from the University of British Columbia (Forin and Lemieux, 2014) shows that increases in the minimum wage between 2005 and 2012 have made a significant difference for low wage workers. Economist David Green (2015) writes that minimum wages can be effective in reducing poverty and inequality if they are raised high enough to lift workers above the poverty line.

There used to be a minimum wage for federally regulated industries, but it was eliminated by Jean Chretien's Liberal government in 1996. Since then, employers have paid the prevailing minimum wage in the province they are working in.

While very few workers in the federal jurisdiction earn less than \$10 per hour, many more earn somewhere between \$10 and \$15 per hour. Establishing a \$15 minimum wage in the federal jurisdiction would directly benefit approximately 100,000 workers in industries such as telecommunications, air and road transportation, and banking.

A federal minimum wage also establishes national leadership on a fair minimum wage, and fair mechanisms for updating minimum wages. Unfortunately, in many provinces, minimum wages are set using vague, inconsistent and unaccountable mechanisms. They are left to stagnate for too long, pushing people and families into poverty before pressure builds and governments are forced to take action. A federal standard for minimum wages would help change that.

If we can reduce inequality and make things a little bit fairer for workers, shouldn't we make that a priority?

[Click here to read more at the Canadian Labour Congress](#)



Knock, knock...

I'll be knocking on doors in Surrey on **September 12th** to help some great local candidates get elected to Parliament.

Please join me.



IT'S TIME FOR CHANGE. YOU CAN BE A PART OF IT.


WE CAN WIN a new government on October 19. A new government that puts health care, retirement security, child care, good jobs and the economy first.

But, we need to help the right people get elected.


ON SEPTEMBER 12, join me and other labour leaders as we go door to door in Surrey to support local candidates who share our values and can deliver the change we need.

Meet at the **BCGEU FRASER VALLEY OFFICE** (8555 - 198A Street, Langley) **AT 9:30** a.m. for some training so we can all take it to the streets and help win a new government on election day.

In Solidarity
Hassan Yussuff, CLC President



TO REGISTER: write to Pacific@clc-ctc.ca or sign up online at goo.gl/gi9FCG



Authorized by the Canadian Labour Congress.

"This course has sent

me in the right direction. I have already recommended it to my co-workers, and won't hesitate to recommend the course to others."

- Terri Theodore, member of the Canadian Media Guild and a news editor with Canadian Press



Are your members ready for retirement?

IT CAN BE THE **BEST OR WORST** TIME OF YOUR LIFE

TO HELP YOUR members make the most of their retirement, the Congress of Union Retirees of Canada and the B.C. Federation of Retired Union Members (BC FORUM) are offering a new course, "What are you doing after work?"

It's a practical, hands-on, interactive pre-retirement workshop, designed and delivered by retired workers. Our goal is to share what we've learned with recent retirees, and those who plan to retire in the near future.

Quick facts about our course:

- Our course is completely flexible. It is designed to integrate with your union's pre-retirement courses, complement your regular meetings, or to stand on its own.
- Options range from our 45 minute module on "Critical things you need to know before you retire" to a full two day course to prepare your members for an enjoyable and rewarding retirement.
- Other modules cover critical issues such as retirement goals, changing relationships, housing, legal and financial planning, health benefits and issues, sources of income, pensions, and more.
- A comprehensive take home manual is provided for all participants (printing courtesy of CLC).
- Our course is delivered by fully trained and qualified

instructors whose roots are in the labour movement, not financial institutions.

- Best of all, our course is *free of charge* to affiliated unions, Labour Council Weekend Schools and union pension plans. We ask only that you cover instructors' travel expenses, room rental, and lunches and coffee breaks for participants.

BOOK YOUR SESSION TODAY

TO OBTAIN more information, to book a short 20 minute module or the full course, or to discuss how we can help you provide maximum benefit to your members, contact us today.

Our office is at the BC Federation of Labour: #200-5118 Joyce Street, Vancouver, BC V5R 4H1.

Phone: 604 688-4565, or toll free at 1 800 896-5678.

Email: bcforum@bcfed.ca.

Web: www.bcforum.ca.

Facebook: [BCRetiredUnionMembersForum](https://www.facebook.com/BCRetiredUnionMembersForum).

**BC
forum**

B.C. Federation of Retired Union Members

"Standing up for union retirees since 1994"

Leifur 2040
August, 2015

Are you registered to vote on October 19?

This may be the most important election in your lifetime. Do you know that the Harper Government has made significant changes to the election laws in Canada? Make sure you do not lose your opportunity to make the changes that this country needs. Click on the image below to go to Elections Canada.



[Home](#) | [FAQ](#) | [Contact us](#) | [f](#)

Online Voter Registration Service

Use this service to:

- check if you're registered to vote
- update the address on your voter registration, or

- register to vote

Note: In some cases, you may be asked to provide the number from your driver's licence or provincial/territorial ID card. If you do not have the applicable identification, you can register by contacting your local Elections Canada office.

This online service works for the following address types only: **Civic** (for example, 123 Main Street), **Lot and Concession** (Ontario only), and **Section-Township-Range-Meridian**. If your address is of a different type, please contact us at **1-800-463-6868** for help with your voter registration.

Start

Political Action report by Vice President Rob Ashton

CLC Political Action Report, Aug. 28 2015
Polling Time Frame Aug 12-18



I recently attended a Canadian Labour Congress special meeting on the upcoming federal election on Aug 26. This meeting was to discuss how we are doing on getting the Harper Cons out of office and getting a true Canadian family government elected.

Frank Graves from Ekos Research gave a report on polling for the upcoming election on October 19, 2015. In the 2011 Federal Election the Conservatives polled in at 35% and the NDP polled in at 30%, fast forward to 2015 and the Cons are polling in at 29%. While the NDP is making great strides and polling in at 34%, this number Ekos says is not **too be looked** and let our guard down though, as was seen in the last Provincial election in BC.

A quick breakdown by provinces in BC, and Quebec the NDP have a good lead on the other parties. In the Atlantic Provinces the NDP sits in 2nd place with recent polls. In Alberta unfortunately the Harper Cons have a substantial lead on all other parties. The tightest race comes in Ontario where it is literally a three-way race for control of that Province.

Voting was broken down by gender and education as well and the vote results are as follows:

Women: Liberal 29%, Cons 24%, NDP 35%

Men: NDP 32%, Cons 35%, Liberal 24%

Completed Education:

High School- Cons 39% **College -** NDP 36% **University -** NDP 37%

The two biggest issues in this campaign to date according to this poll are the Economy and the Environment. These two areas are where the NDP is the strongest. When you look at balanced budgets the Current Harper Cons cannot and have not balanced a budget, but on the other hand the NDP has Andrew Thomas former Saskatchewan Finance Minister running in Eglinton-Lawrence, who brought in balanced budgets when he was a part of the NDP government in Saskatchewan. Mr. Thomas supports a resource-based economy as well, while doing it with a balanced NDP environmental approach. The only job growth the Harper Cons have been able to provide is quite simply low paying minimum wage jobs, where families have to have two or three of to make ends meet.

What the NDP looks like at a glance is quite simply what the workers and families of this great country need! A 15 a day daycare will bring it back into the realm of affordability and will help bring families out of poverty. A \$15 per hour minimum wage, which is proven not to hurt the economies of the cities it has been introduced in, but to actually help grow the areas it is in place. People will have more spending money for the communities in which they live. The NDP also advocates a reversal of the retirement age from 67 back to 65, so that people of this country do not have to work till they die! The NDP will reinstate eligibility for OAS/GIS back to the age of 65 and they will stop the cancellation of door-to-door mail delivery, as well as invest in infrastructure. These are just a few of the details of the platform they are running on.

Make sure you are registered to vote in the upcoming election, the Harper Cons have change voting laws in our country.

Remember to get out and campaign for the party that will best work for the families of this great country, and that party is NOT the Harper Conservatives.

Rob Ashton
Vice President

Western Transportation Advisory Council



WESTAC is a non-profit society of major transportation organizations in Western Canada represented by business, labour, and government decision-makers. The ILWU is a founding member and holds two positions on the Executive Board, one is ILWU Canada President Mark Gordienko and the other through the ILWU Affiliate in Saskatchewan the Grain Services Union General Secretary Hugh Wagner.

[Click here for the weekly information package we receive from Westac, with links to many interesting articles that relate to transportation.](#)

News in Review - August 22 to 28, 2015

- Canada's bad grades
- Alberta declares agricultural disaster; Rain is too late for farmers hit by drought
- Brazil economy sinks into worse-than-expected recession
- William Watson: Trade more with India? Go ahead
- Why BHP Billiton Still Believes in China's Economy
- Canada's Railways Introduce French Version of AskRail App

- Canada's Railways introduces French version of ASKRail App
- US, Mexico to open first new rail link in over a century
- To fix Canada's infrastructure, billions are just drops in the bucket
- Let Irving Oil run Canada's roads and bridges

Disclaimer: These articles are not necessarily the opinions of either WESTAC or the ILWU. They are a sampling of topical reports on transportation issues only.

OUR WORKING WATERFRONT, 1945-2015

Come explore work on the New Westminster waterfront over the last 70 years.

July 9 - October 27, 2015 • New Westminster Museum • 3rd floor Anvil Centre, 777 Columbia Street

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Our Working Waterfront, 1945-2015

AN EXHIBITION EXPLORING THE DIVERSITY OF WORK ON NEW WESTMINSTER'S WATERFRONT

This exhibition explores the diversity of work on the New Westminster waterfront from 1945 to the present, including shipbuilding, longshore work, food service, and tug boating. The exhibit draws on more than 90 oral histories with waterfront workers, and is the culmination of 4 years of collaboration between the New Westminster Museum and Archives, longshore pensioners of ILWU Local 502, teachers in our City's schools, and Simon Fraser University.

The New Westminster Museum and Archives gratefully acknowledge the financial assistance of the Province of British Columbia.

Waterfront News

Reminder

The Waterfront News is the newsletter produced by ILWU Canada and mailed to members several times per year. The Dispatcher is the newsletter produced by our International Union and is also mailed to members several times per year. ILWU Canada keeps an address database for both of these, but we only receive addresses from the Locals or the Members directly.

[Copies of past editions of the Waterfront News are available here:](#)

[Copies of past editions of the Dispatcher are available here:](#)

If you are a Member of the ILWU in Canada, or on the A or B boards in any of the Longshore Locals you are entitled to receive one or both of these. If you are not receiving it now you should contact your Local to make sure they have your current address.

You can also send us an e-mail at communicate@ilwu.ca or phone us at 604-254-8141 to update us.



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