



Manitoba and the Asia Pacific Gateway: Interests and Perspectives

A consultation organized by the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada
in cooperation with the Province of Manitoba

Solarium Room, York the Hotel
161 Donald Street, Winnipeg, MB

Wednesday, September 27th

Facilitated by: Yuen Pau Woo, Co-CEO, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada

09:30 - 10:00 *Registration and Coffee*

10:00-10:30 *Welcome and Introduction: Why Asia Pacific Gateway?*

- **Yuen Pau Woo**, Co-CEO, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada
- **John Higginbotham**, Principal Advisor, Pacific Gateway, Transport Canada

10:30 – 12:00 *Transportation Infrastructure and Supply Chain Management*

Transportation is central to an Asia Pacific Gateway strategy because with increasing Asian trade, cargo must be able to move fluidly through inter-modal transportation networks linking airports, ports, railways and roads. Supply chain management is critical for end-users (importers) who demand time and quality assurances. Manitoba's strategic position as the heart of the Mid-Continent trade corridor between Canada and central North America represents a critical part of Canada's Asia Pacific Gateway strategy that seeks to increase the volume of trade routed through the East and West coast ports. The goal of this discussion is to hear the concerns of stakeholders in relation to the transport aspect of an Asia Pacific Gateway.

12:00 – 13:00 *Manitoba's International Gateway Strategy*

Luncheon speaker:

- **Honourable Ron Lemieux**, Minister of Transportation and Government Services

13:00 – 14:15 *Advanced Manufacturing*

Shifts in the global value chain mean that manufacturing that used to be done in Canada is moving to lower-cost economies such as China, India and Vietnam. Advanced manufacturing refers to higher value chain activities (complex manufacturing) and

applying concepts like global outsourcing and off-shoring. Manitoba has a thriving advanced manufacturing sector, including original equipment manufacturing (OEM), furniture, bus manufacturing, etc. The goal of this session is to identify what increased relations (trade, people, etc) with Asia means for advanced manufacturing.

14:15-14:30 *Refreshment Break*

14:30 – 15:45 *Manitoba's Exports and the Gateway: Asian Opportunities and Challenges*

Manitoba's key export sectors face both opportunities and challenges from the Asia Pacific Gateway. Agriculture, functional foods and nutraceuticals, mining and advanced manufacturing all face enormous growth potential due to Asian demand. Increased Asian trade, outsourcing, and off-shoring, however, may also pose challenges, such as local suppliers being displaced by imports. The goal of this session is to identify current opportunities, priorities and challenges facing Manitoba's key export sectors with regards to Asia.

15:45 – 16:45 *Human Dimensions of Gateway*

The Asia Pacific Gateway has implications that extend beyond physical infrastructure and include human dimensions such as labour, tourism, education and culture. These may have transformative effects across Canada, and implications for innovation, competitiveness, education and even values. The goal of this session is to identify these broader human dimensions of the Asia Pacific Gateway, and their implications for Manitoba.

16:45 – 17:00 *Concluding Remarks*

- **Yuen Pau Woo**, co-CEO, Asia Pacific Foundation