

**PortsToronto Annual General Meeting** 

**Chair's Remarks** 

**Sandra Pupatello** 

June 10, 2023

Check Against Delivery

## Good morning

Thank you Deborah and welcome to PortsToronto's Annual General Meeting. On behalf of my fellow Board Members, and the employees of PortsToronto, thank you for attending today.

I have been on the Board since last year, and it doesn't take long to appreciate this organization as an essential component of the local, regional and national transportation network and economies. I've had the benefit of seeing economic infrastructure from the provincial level in previous roles, and I hope that some of that experience will be useful in this role.

I want to thank Amanda Walton, the previous Chair and board member for nine years. Think about the time she was Chair. Relatively speaking, it is easy to lead when you face the regular challenges of stewardship of PortsToronto, as complex of an organization as you can find. But then, throw in an historic pandemic – now we are testing true leadership! Thank you Amanda, for your commitment and dedication to PortsToronto.

Our entire Board of Directors is in attendance here today and I would like to take a moment to introduce them beginning with the two longest standing members of our Board:

- Darin Deschamps, Chair of our Audit & Finance Committee, as well as our Pension Committee
- Hellen Siwanowicz, Chair of our Governance and Human Resources Committee
- I would also like to introduce Jane McKenna, Chair of our Communications & Outreach Committee
- We also have Thomas Ruth, former CEO of Edmonton Airport
- And, Robin Pilkey who joined the Board in May of this year as the City of Toronto appointee

RJ Steenstra, our CEO, who joined us about a year and a half ago, has made it his priority to reintegrate PortsToronto with our partners, and lead the charge to reimagine what PortsToronto can be for Canada's number one city – Toronto. I hope I can add to this effort.

There are three areas of focus for me:

- 1. How can PortsToronto lead in innovation across all our areas of service the port, the airport, cruise ship business, the marina;
- 2. How can all our areas of service surpass any benchmark for sustainability and truly be better to the environment;
- 3. And finally, if we're doing our job, then PortsToronto needs to do more business. For a global city, our products and our people need to flow in and out of this capital city easily and efficiently. So, if the city is growing, and it is, then we need to see what Toronto will require in the future for its key trade infrastructure.

PortsToronto undertook a comprehensive strategic plan in 2023 to ensure that we had a clear direction and a path for achieving our business goals and priorities. I'm glad to say that we are on our way to achieving these goals.

With a history that stretches back more than 110 years, PortsToronto is getting ready for its next 100 years! PortsToronto sees itself as a partner to the city, the province and the federal government in helping achieve their goals for a vibrant economy.

I would like to thank the staff of PortsToronto. These are the people who get up every day and say, "how can I make PortsToronto better, more integrated, more sustainable, more efficient."

I would also like to thank our stakeholders including the City of Toronto, Transport Canada, Waterfront Toronto, TRCA, the Mississaugas of the Credit, CreateTO and airport partners Porter, Air Canada, Stolport, Nieuport and Ornge, as well as others who work with us collaboratively to ensure that we continue on our shared goal of city building.

With that I will turn things over to RJ Steenstra, President and CEO of PortsToronto.

Thank you.

