



# Corporate

NO: R025

# Report

COUNCIL DATE: February 18, 2002

<b>REGULAR COUNCIL</b>			
TO:	<b>Mayor &amp; Council</b>	DATE:	<b>February 11, 2002</b>
FROM:	<b>General Manager, Engineering</b>	FILE:	<b>5650-20</b>
SUBJECT:	<b>Dredging in the Fraser River</b>		

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Council request that the Federal Government reinstate funding for the continuing development and maintenance of the Fraser River navigation channels and dyking programs, and assure that previous levels of development and maintenance of the Fraser River navigation channels and dykes will be maintained without jeopardy to waterborne commerce and the flood control benefits.
2. That the attached resolution be endorsed and forwarded to the Federal Minister of Transport.

## BACKGROUND

At a meeting with the Fraser Port Authority and the Council of Mayors last year, the issue of dredging of the Fraser River was discussed. Up until 1997, dredging to maintain navigable channels in the Fraser River was carried out by the Federal Government. With the restructuring of responsibilities between Federal Ministries, the Federal Government is longer carrying out this dredging. The Fraser Port Authority has chosen to seek to keep the Fraser River navigation channels operational to the extent of the Authority's limited financial resources and is now the sole funding source for the development and maintenance of the Fraser River navigation channels, including but not restricted to the removal of the annual spring freshet infill in the Fraser River.

Significant waterborne commerce and the flood control benefits will be jeopardized if the maintenance of the Fraser River navigation channels is not continued and infill not removed annually, thereby threatening the socio-economic activities occurring on adjacent lands within the boundaries of Surrey and neighbouring municipalities.

In view of the limited funding available to the Fraser Port Authority for dredging and the competitive

disadvantage such costs put upon Canadian ports compared with those in the United States, we believe that the Federal Government should re-assume a role in adequately dredging the Fraser River.

The attached resolution outlining the situation has already been passed by Langley City, Langley Township and Delta, and its adoption by Surrey City Council will add further weight to the request to the Federal Government. We understand that other neighbouring municipalities will be bringing forward similar resolutions.

Paul Ham, P. Eng.

General Manager, Engineering

PH:brb

Attachment

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## **Resolution on Dredging in the Fraser Estuary**

WHEREAS in the 1900's the Federal Government developed and maintained commercial navigation channels in the Fraser River through the construction of training walls and regular dredging programs, and

WHEREAS until 1997 the Federal Government provided capital and operating funds for the said development and maintenance of the Fraser River navigation channels, and

WHEREAS significant waterborne commerce developed in response to the development and maintenance of Fraser River navigation channels, and

WHEREAS significant flood control benefits from the development and maintenance of the said Fraser River navigation channels, and

WHEREAS users of the Fraser River navigation channels pay a Marine Services Fee to the Canadian Coast Guard but the Canadian Coast Guard does not include development and maintenance of the Fraser River navigation channels as services funded by the revenue generated by the Marine Services Fee, and

WHEREAS neither the Canadian Coast Guard nor the Federal Government now provide capital and operating funds for the development and ongoing maintenance of the Fraser River navigation channels, and

WHEREAS the Fraser River Port Authority has chosen to seek to keep the Fraser River navigation channels operational to the extent of the Authority's limited financial resources and is now the sole funding source for the development and maintenance of the Fraser River navigation channels, including but not restricted to the removal of

the annual spring freshet infill in the Fraser River, and

WHEREAS the above mentioned significant waterborne commerce and the flood control benefits will be jeopardized if the maintenance of the Fraser River navigation channels is not continued and infill removed annually, thereby threatening the socio-economic activities occurring on adjacent lands within the boundaries of the municipal signatories to this joint resolution,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the City of Surrey requests in the strongest way possible that the Federal Government reinstate the funding for the continuing development and maintenance of the Fraser River navigation channels and assure to the undersigned that previous levels of development and maintenance of the Fraser River navigation channels will be maintained without jeopardy to waterborne commerce and the flood control benefits.

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