

April 3, 2009

Chief Kim Baird, respected Elders, Band Councillors, Members of Tsawwassen First Nation, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

It is indeed an honour and a pleasure to have the opportunity to bring greetings from the Board and staff of Global Container Terminals/TSI on this very historic occasion – the coming into effect of the Treaty. Congratulations to the Tsawwassen People and also to the Federal and Provincial governments for their part in the negotiations. I understand that carbon-dating puts this village back to 2260 BC and the Coast Salish people even earlier.

Our company, of course, pales in comparison. TSI, formerly Empire Stevedoring, is just over 100 years old, having started business on Vancouver Island. When it comes to Deltaport, we have been at Roberts Bank since 1997 – the same year this longhouse was built.

In recent years, the Tsawwassen First Nation has developed some very successful businesses in the areas of catering, commercial, construction and retail. It is our intention to help that entrepreneurship continue.

With the Treaty in place and the additional lands that are now under the ownership of the Tsawwassen First Nation, the opportunities to grow and prosper are endless.

We believe that those lands which have been identified and designated as Port Industrial will be an economic generator for the Tribe, the Port, the Province and Canada as a whole.

Some of the world's greatest ports have distribution centres in the immediate vicinity – the facilities always have a very positive impact on both the economy and the environment.

While we are in a global downturn today, we are confident that trade will continue to grow in the years ahead and we look forward to working cooperatively with you in the days, weeks and years ahead.

As a token of our friendship, and to commemorate your special day, we would like you to accept this young tree which will grow and prosper along with the people of the Tsawwassen First Nation.

We wish you every success and congratulations on this, your special day.