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Ocean Updates

B.C. Mayor Sounds Alarm over 'Rampant' Crime at Local Port as Expansion Looms

The federal government's failure to fund a police force dedicated to Canada's ports is a threat to national security that needs to be dealt with immediately, says Delta, B.C., Mayor George Harvie.

Delta is home to the Roberts Bank Terminal, and expansion plans over the coming years will see millions more containers move through the Port of Vancouver annually.

Harvie says Canada's ports are the federal government's responsibility, but the "total absence" of uniformed police at the facilities makes them obvious targets for criminal elements to set up shop, from Mexican drug cartels to biker gangs.

"We're witnessing a relentless flow of illegal drugs, weapons and contraband into Canada through our ports and that threatens our national security," said Harvie.

The City of Delta released a report Thursday that it had commissioned about policing of Metro Vancouver port terminal facilities that says there's "literally no downside" for organized criminals to set up shop. "Recently, ports scored very high in British Columbia's provincial threat assessment with respect to the potential for infiltration and corruption," the report says.

Read more in an article from CBC News.

Pessimistic Box Lines Cancel India-to-U.S. GRIs and Peak Surcharges

Container lines seem to be giving up hope of raising freight rates for loads from India to the U.S., as the market is showing no uptick in volume.

Traditionally, carriers wield the most bargaining power during the peak shipping season that gets under way in August. But this year has proved muted for them, after the rate slide began in the middle of last year.

And pessimism is prompting carriers to "undo" rate increase notices already sent out, even though the "asks" had been modest, instead of the usual hefty amounts.

Read more in an article from The Loadstar.

Rail and Truck Updates

CN One New Features and Retirement of Legacy Tools

CN has made new features available on the CN One Shipment Tracking tool launched earlier this year. The latest release features offline event reporting, displaying the status of railcars when they are moving on CN's interline partners' network, and the ability to guarantee or pay storage charges for Intermodal shipments.

CN will soon be retiring some of its older shipment tracking tools, specifically Intermodal Shipment Status and Quick Trace.

If you have any comments on the features or concerns regarding the retirement of Intermodal Shipment Status and Quick Trace, click the "Feedback" button on the right side of the screen when using Shipment Tracking on the web browser or select "Feedback" under the Profile option on the CN One mobile app.

Broker Dodges Liability in Illinois Case, Had No 'Control' over Carrier

In a case with strong parallels to C.H. Robinson vs. Miller and the case known simply as Ye, an Illinois appellate court has removed a 3PL from a more than \$18 million decision against a carrier whose truck struck a teenager in 2016.

The decision in the Alliance case was handed down by a unanimous three-judge panel.

Much of the panel's decision was driven by its conclusion about the control that 3PL Alliance had over the carrier and by extension its driver. The question, it said, is whether they were "agents" of Alliance or an independent contractor.

Read more in an article from FreightWaves.