

# CANADA Daily News and Updates November 30th 2023

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- More Box Ships Diverting to Suez Canal Routes as Panama Restrictions Tighten, Carriers Introducing Panama Surcharges

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## Ocean Updates

### **Julie Gascon Appointed President and CEO of the Montreal Port Authority**

The Montreal Port Authority (MPA) announces the appointment of Julie Gascon to the position of President and CEO. With her proven track record in the marine industry, Gascon will bring in-depth knowledge of operations in the transportation sector to the entire Port of Montreal ecosystem and put her entrepreneurial know-how to work in implementing the 2023–2027 strategic plan.

Gascon is a passionate advocate of marine transportation and has held a number of strategic positions with Transport Canada and the Canadian Coast Guard. She is currently President and CEO of the Pacific Pilotage Authority. She will take up her new position on February 12.

Read more in a [press release from the Port of Montreal](#).

### **More Box Ships Diverting to Suez Canal Routes as Panama Restrictions Tighten, Carriers Introducing Panama Surcharges**

Hapag-Lloyd and Cosco have become the latest carriers to impose a Panama Canal surcharge, as the worst drought in more than 50 years continues to restrict capacity at the waterway.

Garman carrier Hapag-Lloyd said it would introduce a \$130-per-TEU surcharge on January 1, when Cosco is set to introduce what it termed a Panama Canal Low Water Surcharge (PLW) of \$255 per TEU – nearly double Hapag-Lloyd's, but less than the \$297 per TEU MSC has plans to introduce on December 15.

The maximum draught of a vessel able to transit the canal as been reduced from 14.9 metres to 13.4 metres, while the number of daily transits has gone down, from the

designed capacity of 34 to 38, to 24, which is set to be reduced to 22 on Friday, and again, to 18, by February.

Meanwhile, congestion at the waterway continues to mount on a daily basis, according to liner database eeSea, with 20 box ships waiting to transit – nine at the Pacific entrance and 11 in the Atlantic.

Read more in an [article from The Loadstar](#).

## Rail and Truck Updates

### Status Update on Portside Blundell Road Improvements Project, Port of Vancouver

*The Port of Vancouver has issued an update on the Portside Blundell Road Improvements Project, as follows:*

The Vancouver Fraser Port Authority... has been advancing the [Portside Blundell Road Improvements Project] to increase capacity, efficiency and safety of transportation infrastructure in the Fraser Richmond industrial lands. This area experiences some of the highest volumes and most concentrated port drayage truck activity in the region.

Since the project began in 2019, after receiving federal funding through the National Trade Corridors Fund (NTCF), the port authority has been consulting with First Nations and working closely with project partners and stakeholders to advance the project, which has strong support from businesses in the area.

While the project team has made considerable progress, the project faces a significant funding gap and extended partner negotiations that have put the project at considerable risk. As a result, the port authority is not advancing the project at this time and is reviewing the strategy to deliver the project, or a component of it, in the future. Extended negotiations to obtain the necessary agreements to advance the project have led to delays, which have created uncertainty over the project timeline and contributed to increased costs. With project costs now more than double the original estimate, a funding gap must be resolved and the necessary agreements in place for the project to advance.

Read the [full update](#).

## **International Business/Government**

### **Not the Start of the Decline of Globalization – Just of China's Dominance**

Joe Biden's latest policy seems likely to have put the frighteners on China, amid what experts are describing as a fundamental reworking of global supply chains and international trade.

Launched on Tuesday, the White House Council on Supply Chain Resilience is central to the Biden administration's efforts to strengthen both the U.S. economy and its manufacturing capacity. Those efforts are intended to lower costs for American families and ensure they get products "they need when they need them," while concurrently supporting good-paying, domestic union jobs.

Coming with the Inflation Reduction Act, the focus appears to be on local at the expense of international.

Read more in an [article from The Loadstar](#).