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PORT TRAFFIC REBOUNDS IN 2015

After a slump in total tonnage handled in 2014 following the record year in 2013, Port Windsor rebounded nicely in 2015 with an increase in total traffic of 3.8%. Tonnage reached 5.642 million tonnes, well above both the five and ten year averages for the port.

David Cree, President & CEO of the Windsor Port Authority stated "Although we did record weaknesses in several of our cargo categories, stone and construction aggregates had a remarkable year, increasing by almost 50% over 2014 and accounting for the overall gain in traffic. This substantial increase in construction materials was generated by the start of construction of the new customs plaza which will serve the Gordie Howe International Bridge".

As noted, several of the other major products handled within the port experienced declines in 2015, including salt, petroleum, grain and general cargo. Mr. Cree noted "while declines in any commodities are disappointing, we do not see any of these as establishing a trend; they merely represent the normal cycles we experience based on numerous factors, including local economic conditions and world markets".

George Sandala, Chair of the Port Authority, summarized the year as follows: "We are particularly gratified by both the cargo and financial results which we were able to achieve in 2015. As we have noted in the past, almost all of our net earnings are re-invested in the community. In recent years, this has resulted in significant development and improvements in Sandwich Towne, including the new HMCS Hunter Naval Reserve Facility, the development of over 1500 linear feet of fish habitat along the Detroit River and the on-going construction of two waterfront parks. In addition, the Port Authority continued its charitable activities in Sandwich Towne with contributions to the Santa Claus Parade, St. John's (Sandwich) Food Bank, Sandwich Towne Festival and the Mission to Seafarers. As our short and long term projections remain positive, this will allow the Port Authority to continue to make significant investments in Windsor's future".

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