



A delegation from APE (Against Port Expansion at Roberts Bank), along with SDSS Grade 11 student Georgine Aho, a member of S→APE (Students Against Port Expansion), met with four provincial cabinet ministers in Victoria on Tuesday to discuss their concerns about expanding the Deltaport container facility. L-R: Susan Jones, Georgine Aho, Mary Taitt, Val Roddick MLA, Liz Gough, and Roger Emsley.

The group's brief presentation coupled the many environmental risks and issues associated with port expansion with the lack of business justification to continue on with further expansion plans at Deltaport when there is plenty of port capacity at other BC West Coast ports. Additionally, the fact that Vancouver Port Authority is competing with other major port facilities south of our border such as Seattle, Tacoma, Portland, Mexico, and Nicaragua plus the soon to be expanded Panama Canal, it could render Deltaport as Canada's next Mirabel. With over fifty percent of the containers handled at Vancouver area ports destined for Eastern Canada and the USA, this traffic is likely to go elsewhere, especially once the Panama Canal can take the larger vessels.

"The infrastructure costs to move the container traffic through the Lower Mainland are astronomical. Billions of taxpayers' dollars are funding such projects such as Gateway. Not only is this a questionable financial risk, it's a serious environmental risk, with the industrialization of the mouth of the Fraser River and a four-lane truck highway running along the edge of Burns Bog."

Roger Emsley, APE Spokesperson

In attendance were Kevin Falcon, Min. of Transportation; Barry Penner, Min. of Environment (by phone); Pat Bell, Min. of Agriculture; John Van Dongen, Min. of Intergovernmental Affairs, along with South Delta MLA Val Roddick.

APE and S→APE are committed to raising public awareness on the scope of government's plans to expand Deltaport, the ill-effects this will have on the environment we live in, and the lack of public participation in the decision-making process.

More information can be found by visiting the APE website: www.againstportexpansion.org