

**GOOD MORNING, BONJOUR AND BUENOS DIAS. MR. CHAIR, HONOURABLE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, OFFICIALS OF THE AAPA, BOARD AND MANAGEMENT OF THE HALIFAX PORT AUTHORITY OFFICIALS, FELLOW DELEGATES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.**

**IT IS AN HONOUR AND A PRIVILEGE FOR ME TO BRING GREETINGS ON BEHALF OF THE CANADIAN DELEGATION TO THIS 99<sup>TH</sup> AAPA CONVENTION.**

**AND, ON BEHALF OF THE CANADIAN DELEGATION, I WANT TO TELL YOU ALL WHAT YOU UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE ALREADY DISCOVERED: THAT WE ARE BEING HOSTED BY NOT ONLY ONE OF THE BEST PORTS IN CANADA, BUT BY ONE OF THE FINEST IN OUR ENTIRE ASSOCIATION. THANK YOU HALIFAX!**

**I, MYSELF, HAIL FROM A NEARBY CANADIAN PORT, THE PORT OF ST. JOHN'S IN NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR, WHICH IS THE MOST EASTERLY PORT IN NORTH AMERICA. BUT I HAVE BEEN TO HALIFAX MANY TIMES AND I CAN SPEAK FIRST HAND TO THE WARMTH OF ITS PEOPLE AND THE BEAUTY OF THIS CITY.**

**I KNOW THAT THE CEO OF THE HALIFAX PORT AUTHORITY, MY FRIEND, KAREN  
OLDFIELD, AND THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR OF THE PORT – AND ALL DIRECTORS  
AND THE MANAGEMENT TEAM – HAVE PUT TOGETHER AN ABSOLUTELY  
WONDERFUL SOCIAL AND BUSINESS PROGRAM. TO THOSE WHO KNOW THESE  
PEOPLE, THIS IS NO SURPRISE.**

**AND SO, WE ARE HAVING A TREMENDOUS TIME – BOTH ENJOYING AND LEARNING  
FROM EACH OTHER – AS THIS IS WHAT THESE CONVENTIONS ARE ALL ABOUT.  
AND TO LEARN IS MY GOAL, TOO – AS THE INCOMING CHAIR OF THE CANADIAN  
DELEGATION – TO LEARN FROM OUR MANY COLLEAGUES IN NORTH, CENTRAL AND  
SOUTH AMERICA AND FROM OUR WONDERFUL TEAM AT AAPA HEADQUARTERS:  
KURT, JEAN, SUSAN AND OTHERS; AS WELL AS FROM OUR INCOMING CHAIR, MR.  
PETE REIXACH OF PORT FREEPORT.**

**LET ME CLOSE BY THANKING YOU ALL FOR THE HONOUR OF BRINGING GREETINGS  
ON BEHALF OF THE CANADIAN DELEGATION.**

**BEST WISHES AND BONNE CHANCE!**