

**AAPA 2012 Conference**  
**Mobile, Alabama**  
**Canadian Delegation remarks**

Mr. Chairman, President Nagle, honourable government officials, fellow delegates, ladies and gentlemen:

It's truly a pleasure for me and the Canadian Delegation to be here in Alabama's "Port City" with all of you as we conclude the centennial celebration of the AAPA at its 101<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention. With over 300 years of marine trade history of its own, Mobile is an ideal venue for the policy discussions, business strategy meetings and networking opportunities we will be engaged in this week. I think I speak for all my Canadian colleagues when I say that the impressive capital improvement and expansion projects by the Alabama State Port Authority over the last decade have only been surpassed by the southern hospitality extended to us in Mobile since we arrived. As many of us discovered at last night's Opening Reception, in the birthplace of Mardi Gras there is certainly no shortage of hospitality.

Each year the AAPA hosts this fine affair for us to celebrate our collective growth and shared successes, but also to collaborate on concerning issues and impart important wisdom on one another. As we tackle challenging topics like the global financial future, local economic development and best practice innovations, we can all be confident that old friends and new acquaintances from across the Americas will offer sincere ideas, intelligence and opinions for us to take home to our respective ports. It is this comradery between AAPA members (and a little bit of work by the AAPA staff and hosting Port Authority) that makes this annual conference such a success.

With that shared spirit in mind, on behalf of the Canadian Delegation I would like to wish everyone an enjoyed experience this week, thank the entirety of the AAPA for making this possible, and express our gratitude to the Port of Mobile and Alabama State Port Authority for their gracious hospitality.

Bernie A. Dumas  
President & CEO  
Nanaimo Port Authority