

# Canada's Productivity Summit

Driving Investment for  
Economic Growth and Prosperity

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## Robin Silvester

**Board Member and Advisor  
Vancouver Fraser Port Authority**

Robin is a board member and advisor focusing on infrastructure, the supply chain, and energy transition. He led the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority as CEO from 2009 to 2023 delivering a period of unprecedented growth in investment and cargo handled. The port authority is the financially independent federal agency responsible for enabling Canada's trade through the Port of Vancouver, which is Canada's largest port. It supports around \$300 billion in trade annually and sustains over 130,000 jobs across Canada in the supply chain alone.

As CEO of the port authority, Robin oversaw delivery of over \$1bn of port authority-led infrastructure investments in Vancouver's gateway, which supported and catalyzed over \$3bn of private-sector investments throughout the port. These investments encompassed significant bulk terminal capacity expansions, including the creation of 3 new grain terminals and a new potash terminal, major container terminal expansions, and the successful completion of the multi-year federal permitting process for a 110 ha. new container terminal reclamation project. Overall, these achievements helped drive more than 40% growth in international trade through the Port of Vancouver and positioned the port extremely strongly for further growth into the future.

Under Robin's leadership, the port authority set, and actively advanced, a vision to make the Port of Vancouver the world's most sustainable port - a port that is a global leader at delivering economic prosperity through trade, protecting the environment, and enabling thriving local communities. This included establishing internationally recognized environmental programmes and achieving ground-breaking agreements with multiple First Nations in south-western BC.

Prior to joining the port authority, Robin held a range of senior international business leadership, M&A and strategy roles, including serving as CEO for Australian property and facilities management business, United Group Services ANZ; he held senior roles in Vancouver, London, and Sydney with P&O Ports, which included acquiring and leading Centerm Terminal in Vancouver; and he held roles in the European steel and chemicals industries.

He has a master's degree in mechanical engineering from Cambridge University and he has completed a corporate finance program at the London Business School and the ICD Directors

Education Program. He has served on the boards of, and chaired, a range of business associations and corporate subsidiaries and he co-chaired the Presidents Group from 2020 to 2023, an organization focused on increasing employment of people with disabilities.

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