

## Report proposes inland port here: Kamloops could take up slack for Vancouver, Prince Rupert

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Kamloops should be considered as a location for an inland container port, says a study by a UBC academic.

The recommendation to the federal and provincial governments comes from the study published by the B.C. Progress Board. The report suggests 25 policy ideas to improve the province's transportation network.

One of those is creation of an inland -- also called intermodal -- port because of a space crunch at existing port facilities. The concept is listed in the report as a long-term goal.

The report by University of B.C. professor Michael Goldberg notes the limited amount of land at tidewater ports, a cause of shipping delays.

An inland facility could act as a parking and load-swapping facility between rail and truck carriers.

"The theory ... is portside lands are limited and valuable, so why not undertake extensive sorting and de-stuffing operations elsewhere?" the report asks.

Kamloops, Prince George and the Fraser Valley are all mentioned as potential locations for an inland port for Vancouver and Prince Rupert port traffic.

Venture Kamloops executive director M-J Cousins said the idea has circulated here for more than a decade because of the city's central road and rail location.

"It's been identified by the Venture Kamloops board," she said. "We need further investigation. It seems to be getting some legs."

Cousins said she doesn't know how much land would be required, nor a possible location.

Any inland port facility here would require co-operation of Canadian Pacific Ltd. and Canadian National Railway Co. as well as from major trucking firms.

The report states intermodal infrastructure and services require use of advanced electronics and communications.

"They add high-paying jobs and build nicely on the strong post-secondary education base in British Columbia and the provincial government's ongoing commitment to growing the province as a leading global technology centre."

Among the report's other suggestions are road improvements to the Trans-Canada Highway east of Kamloops and through the Rocky Mountains. Growth at Sun Peaks Resort is also placing demand on Highway 5N, the report states.

Kamloops Airport is among nine key areas noted for importance in air transportation. The report says Fulton Field has "considerable potential and will need resources."