



TO: Liquor Supplier & Industry Representatives
FROM: Brad Fulham, Director, Supply Chain
DATE: April 27, 2021
RE: **Challenges & delays facing the global shipping industry**

As you are aware, the pandemic restrictions in effect since last year have redirected significant consumer spending toward goods rather than services. This shift in consumer buying patterns has dramatically affected the global shipping industry.

Many goods produced originate in Asia and Europe, which has greatly increased shipping volumes into North America. The result of this sudden growth is wide-ranging and has created a worldwide shortage of available shipping containers, trucks, and trailers; scheduling impacts such as overbookings, container turnover delays, and port-of-call cancellations. Another risk facing Canadian ports of entry is the labour strike in Montreal and the backlog from the Suez Canal.

Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries anticipates these effects will continue to impact supply chain operations in the coming months. Liquor & Lotteries is working collaboratively with our logistics providers to maintain our forecasts and purchasing patterns; making sudden adjustments to forecasts and bulk buying will only generate additional bottlenecks and delays getting your products onto Liquor Mart shelves.

Liquor & Lotteries will continue to monitor the effects of the pandemic on the global shipping industry and may further adjust supply chain operations as needed. Rest assured that our team is doing everything we can to maintain a steady flow of goods into Manitoba despite the issues facing the logistics and retail industries.

Thank you for your continued patience. If you have any questions about the logistics challenges or how Liquor & Lotteries is working to mitigate these delays, please reach out to Jeff Wiebe or Derek Horner for more information.

Jeff Wiebe
Manager, Logistics & Supply Chain Development
Jeff.Wiebe@mbl.ca
204-957-2500 ext. 4637

Derek Horner
Manager, Forecasting & Replenishment
Derek.Horner@mbl.ca
204-957-2500 ext. 4749