



# New Rail Park Development Primed to Change North American Distribution Industry International Trading Corridor Location Ideal for Companies Engaged in Global Supply Chain Activities

**WINNIPEG, Manitoba, Canada**, March 25, 2022 – Large-scale masterplan real estate developer <u>Focus</u> <u>Equities Inc.</u> will lead the development of <u>CentrePort Canada Rail Park</u>, a 665-acre rail-served industrial space with logistics infrastructure at CentrePort Canada – North America's largest trimodal inland port and Foreign Trade Zone. Estimated capital expenditures at the facility could be US\$ 2.5 billion or more.

"Winnipeg offers companies engaged in global supply chain activities a service that they cannot get anywhere else in Canada, and perhaps North America – location, affordability, a keen workforce, a tremendous amount of existing government infrastructure, and the full support of the <a href="Province of Manitoba and Premier Heather Stefanson">Province of Manitoba and Premier Heather Stefanson</a>," says **Kenneth Mariash**, owner of **Focus Equities Inc.**, a company of 50 years that has build-to-suit experience with Fortune 500 companies, and major North American and global industrial companies.

The Rail Park will offer global, national, and local companies with large-volume shipping requirements the ability to efficiently and cost-effectively access, transfer, and transport goods between road and rail. An international airport that handles more than 4,200 cargo flights per year is located within the inland port.

"It's optimal timing for U.S. companies as they are bringing their supply chains back to the continent," he says. "Rail is environmentally sustainable, affordable, fast, and reliable. And with some of Canada's largest trucking carriers located at CentrePort Canada, and round-the-clock operations at Winnipeg Richardson International Airport, CentrePort Canada Rail Park is on track to deliver the very best shipping industry solutions."

Construction will begin in summer 2022 at the Rail Park, located in the Rural Municipality of Rosser, Manitoba, in the Winnipeg Metro Region. The city is close to an interstate at the Canada-U.S. border and the TransCanada Highway, and is served by three Class 1 Rail Carriers connecting Canada, the U.S. and Mexico. Winnipeg is a major Canadian city **near the longitudinal center of the continent** and strategically located at the hub of international trading corridors.

Mariash is already in talks with major prospective tenants, who are interested in Focus Equities' unique approach, as well as Canadian Pacific Railway's recent acquisition of Kansas City Southern. If approved by the U.S. regulator, it will be the first single-line railway in North America to stretch across Canada, the U.S., and Mexico.

"CentrePort Canada Rail Park will create an efficiency of scale for the railroads and companies that need to share that infrastructure," says **Diane Gray**, President and CEO, **CentrePort Canada Inc**. "CentrePort Canada and the Government of Manitoba awarded the Rail Park project to Ken Mariash and his Focus Equities Inc. team because of their approach. They excel at and focus exclusively on large-scale master-planned developments, yet they have an adaptable, supportive, and customized approach to meeting clients' specific building development needs."

Possible tenants include logistics companies that handle the packaging and movement of goods, food supply chain suppliers, heavy raw material processors, bus and machinery manufacturers, and mining and mining-related companies.

"As a transport company that provides a wide range of transportation, warehousing, and logistics services throughout North America, Bison Transport Inc. recognizes the many benefits of a Rail Park at CentrePort Canada," says **Rob Penner**, President and CEO of <u>Bison Transport Inc.</u>, which is headquartered at CentrePort Canada. "The Rail Park project really solidifies the trimodal inland concept of CentrePort Canada, where goods can move seamlessly between rail, truck, and air cargo."

The Government of Manitoba and CentrePort Canada Inc. selected Focus Equities Inc. as the Rail Park project developer following a request for proposal issued in 2018. The company was chosen as the most experienced and qualified industrial masterplan developer following that process.

"We understand that a growth-oriented company needs to act quickly, so responsiveness is at every phase of our process," Mariash says. "The fast-tracked land development approval process in place within CentrePort allows us to move companies very quickly through the permitting process."

# For media use:

Backgrounder, maps, photos, video file: <a href="https://bit.ly/CentrePortCanadaRailPark">https://bit.ly/CentrePortCanadaRailPark</a>
Video by Ken Mariash on the opportunity at Winnipeg and the Rail Park: <a href="https://vimeo.com/555929323">https://vimeo.com/555929323</a>

**Focus Equities Inc.**, a Canadian corporation, provides development, investment and project finances in real estate and infrastructure. Founded over 50 years ago by a Canadian entrepreneur Kenneth W. Mariash, Sr., a graduate architect, MBA, BComm, BSc., Focus Equities Inc. ("Focus") and its associated companies have developed, purchased or sold millions of square feet of real estate and thousands of residential/condominium units in North America. Focus Equities Inc. is currently developing projects in North America valued at more than US\$ 5 billion and has a long track record of successful innovative financial structures. www.focusequities.com

**CentrePort Canada** is Manitoba's 20,000-acre inland port and Foreign Trade Zone. Established in 2008, it is the largest trimodal inland port in North America, with over 2,000 acres in active development. Located in the heart of North America, CentrePort connects to major national and international trade gateways and corridors and is the only inland port in Canada with direct access to trimodal transportation – truck, rail, and air cargo. www.centreportcanada.ca

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