

**Recommendation**

*Initiate a feasibility study with other governments into the establishment of a Winnipeg container port that would consolidate the existing facilities and enable containerized goods to move more efficiently into the corridor.*

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- 7.12 The growth of the air cargo capabilities at the Winnipeg International Airport will continue to require a concerted effort to draw together land owners, government officials and transportation companies to pursue common objectives. For the federal government's part, it will require a change of policy to permit the airport area to proceed with the broader development plans of which Winnport is a first key element. Those plans for the airport area involve the establishment of processing, manufacturing and service facilities which constitute high value-added functions related to the air cargo handling capabilities. What is needed to help make this vision a reality is the sale and transfer of ownership of existing land held by the federal government, which is currently under lease. Without this transfer, there is a limited incentive for investors to put up the capital required to proceed with the next stages or to make full use of the opportunities afforded by the Winnport project and other air cargo initiatives. This measure would allow Winnipeg to become a centre for increased value-added activity for products destined for export through the corridor.

**Recommendation**

*Encourage Transport Canada to move from lease to transfer of title of the property under the management of the Winnipeg Airport Authority to assist in the development of new business activities.*

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*Education and Training*

- 7.13 The shortages of skilled labor that affect key industry sectors in Manitoba will become even more significant problems as export opportunities continue to expand in the corridor region. The Task Force was told of cases where companies were concerned that they might not be able to develop the scale of business activity required to supply export markets due to difficulties in getting enough employees with the right skills in the province. While this problem is not exclusively related to the corridor, it has a considerable significance in how Manitoba can take full advantage of the potential offered by trade with the US and Mexico. The effort to ensure that the right mix of skills can be developed to match the needs of industry becomes even more crucial as a result of the corridor's development.

**Recommendation**

*Governments and educational institutions should proceed quickly to assess the evolving training needs of Manitoba industry and take the measures necessary to ensure that a skilled workforce is in place as the corridor advances.*