

China not learning lessons from the West

Recent articles about China's 100-kilometre long traffic jam indicate "the Beijing-Tibet expressway slowed to a crawl on August 14 due to a spike in traffic by cargo-bearing heavy trucks heading to the capital."

Why aren't more of these goods being transported by rail? The answer is that China and other developing economies are adopting our mistakes of goods and services movement. The loss of productivity to the Chinese economies from such delays is staggering.

We need to move towards greater multi-modal goods and services movement by developing transportation systems that integrate train, trucks and the latest technology. We need to invigorate old rail lines and not abandon them.

Many western Canadian cities have been rendered inefficient by urban sprawl. We need better integration of mass transit, transportation systems and urban planning. China is emulating our mistakes by moving towards an automobile-based society.

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