



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Marine industry 100% behind Seaway Corporation

OTTAWA -- The Chamber of Marine Commerce (CMC) today announced that it fully supports the vision of the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation (the Seaway) to invest in 'the lock of the future' to make Canadian industry more competitive.

The Seaway has been working over the last number of years to ensure a sustainable future and to remain relevant to the transportation challenges of the day by applying new technologies to the lock operation process. The technology currently being tested by the Seaway has a proven track record in other parts of the world, and its application to the system has shown promising results to date. In addition to being safer for employees, it will be a more efficient and environmentally-friendly system, with ships spending less time idling in the locks.

The unionized Seaway employees have given their representatives a mandate to strike, effective October 10, 2008. The major roadblock to an agreement revolves around their unwillingness to discuss the flexibility necessary for the Seaway to modernize and make changes to work methods. The proposed changes to the union contracts would not impact the employment security of current employees.

If a strike occurs, regions as far west as the prairies, the industrial heart of southern Ontario through to Montreal and further east will be severely disabled as industrial shippers are suddenly unable to get vast quantities of raw materials and finished products to and from market.

Noting the support of the entire marine community behind the Seaway's vision, Ray Johnston, President of the Chamber of Marine Commerce, commented "Canadian industry remains confident that the changes being sought by the Seaway - particularly as they relate to investments in 'the lock of the future' - will produce a more efficient, less expensive Seaway and continue to make Canadian industry more competitive through reduced transportation costs."

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More information:

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About the [Chamber of Marine Commerce](#)

The Chamber of Marine Commerce (CMC) is an Ottawa-based association that represents more than 160 marine industry stakeholders including major Canadian and American shippers, ports, terminals and marine service providers, as well as domestic and international shipowners. The CMC represents the interests of its members by addressing government issues affecting marine transportation. Advocacy extends to both the federal and provincial levels of government and, when appropriate, to U.S. federal and state governments and agencies. The marine industry is vital to our prosperity by enabling efficient trade within North America and around the world. As the safest and most environmentally sound method of carrying bulk freight, the increased use of marine transportation offers opportunities to alleviate highway congestion, improve utilization of waterway capacity and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.