

GENERAL – INTRODUCTORY PROVISIONS

Although section 4 of the *Canada Marine Act* (CMA) lists the objectives of the Act, it does not explicitly recognize the underlying importance of marine transportation to the Canadian economy.

Background

During the course of the CMA Review stakeholders suggested that, in order to respond to the many challenges ahead, an explicit recognition of the industry's vital contribution to Canada's economy would be essential to fostering further growth and the future success of marine transportation.

Modern legislation can recognize significant underlying concepts through the incorporation of a set of objectives that are prefaced by a general introductory statement.

Proposed Change

It is proposed to change section 4 of the CMA by:

- adding an introduction to recognize the historical, present-day and future contribution of marine transportation to Canada's economic health;
- adding a new objective confirming the government's commitment towards the success of ports by providing them with the necessary flexibilities to contribute to the competitiveness, growth and prosperity of the Canadian economy; and
- adding an objective promoting coordination and integration of transportation at ports.

Recommendation by the CMA Review Panel – 4.1

Based on the overwhelming majority of stakeholder submissions, the Panel endorses the addition of a preamble to the Canada Marine Act that explicitly sets out the historical and present-day significance of marine transportation to our national heritage, sovereignty and economy.

Stakeholder Views

While no one stakeholder specifically recommended the addition of objectives, many stakeholders (listed below) voiced concerns regarding the low profile of the marine industry and requested that the Government of Canada recognize the importance of the marine transportation sector.

- Canadian Fertilizer Institute
- Chamber of Maritime Commerce
- City of North Vancouver
- City of Port Moody
- District of North Vancouver
- Fraser River Port Authority
- Hamilton Port Authority
- Prince Rupert Port Authority
- Saint John Port Authority
- St. Lawrence Economic Development Council (SODES)
- Western Grain Elevator Association