



CANADA'S MARINE INDUSTRY ALLIANCE

## NEWS RELEASE

*For Immediate Release*

### **National Marine Day Announced**

**APRIL 24, 2006** – Canada's Marine Industry Alliance (CMIA) today announced that Tuesday, May 30, 2006 will be celebrated as Canada's National Marine Day.

CMIA, along with representatives from amongst the more than 800 marine industry companies they represent – including shippers, marine carriers, ports, terminal operators, freight forwarders and other marine related companies – will look forward to joining federal ministers, Members of Parliament and senior federal officials to commemorate National Marine Day at the Chateau Laurier on May 30, 2006.

In announcing this important date, Guy Dufresne, Chair of the Chamber of Maritime Commerce, noted, "With Canadian-international overseas trade expected to at least double by the year 2020, and with the marine sector currently responsible for transporting 97% of that trade, the marine transportation industry is vital to the economic prosperity of our great country."

"The economic opportunities for Canada achievable through maritime commerce, especially from new markets in Asia, is testament to the vision and strategic importance of the Pacific Gateway Strategy," said Rick Bryant, President of the Chamber of Shipping of B.C.

Gerry Carter, Chair of the Canadian Shipowners Association added, "It is important that we take time out to give credit to the important role maritime trade plays in the daily life of Canadians by creating a National Marine Day." He went on to note that, "Many people do not understand that many of the products on the store shelves from shirts to fruits to automobiles come to us by ship."

Referring to the impact of the industry in quantitative terms, Michael Broad, President of the Shipping Federation of Canada explained, "Over 450 million tonnes of cargo is handled annually in the maritime sector, valued at over \$150 billion. On top of that, over 250,000 people directly and indirectly make a living in some aspect of maritime business in Canada."



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CMIA consists of the following industry associations:

Association of Canadian Port Authorities  
Canadian Shipowners Association  
Chamber of Maritime Commerce  
Chamber of Shipping of British Columbia  
Halifax Shipping Association  
Shipping Federation of Canada  
SODES - St. Lawrence Economic Development Council  
St. Lawrence Shipoperators

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