

For Immediate Release

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Maritime industry concerned by Transport Canada's disregard for \$100 million security costs imposed on operators

Vancouver—B.C.'s maritime industry is frustrated with Transport Canada's unwillingness to address the issue of funding for private maritime operators to implement federally mandated port security improvements. The BCMEA raised its objections to Transport Canada's plan to download all port security improvement costs on private-sector operators at public consultations held today in Vancouver.

The 600-plus new security regulations recently drafted by Transport Canada could cost Canada's maritime operators well over \$100 million, putting the industry at a serious competitive disadvantage with a heavily subsidized US industry.

"Ottawa must recognize that port security regulations, enforcement and funding are national issues. Without a substantial federal funding commitment, the competitiveness of Canadian ports and overseas trade will be at risk," said Tim Chapman, Chair of the BC Maritime Employers Association.

The US federal government has already committed over US\$500 million for US port security and recently announced an additional US\$179 million. "We need to be on even footing with our US port counterparts to be globally competitive," said Chapman.

"B.C.'s maritime operators are fully supportive of the federal government's international leadership to develop new regulations aimed at increasing port security, but in the face of competitive pressures from the United States, we simply cannot be expected to foot the entire bill," added Chapman.

The BCMEA is the waterfront employers association representing companies with operations located throughout British Columbia. BCMEA membership includes ship owners & agents, stevedores, general wharf operators and bulk terminal operators.

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