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**Government to improve maritime security: Despite measures, military not in line for any major funding from budget**

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OTTAWA -- Prime Minister Paul Martin's government is laying plans to improve the country's maritime security, but defence analysts are questioning whether enough funding will be provided to properly do the job.

Although the Canadian military isn't expected to receive a significant financial boost when the Martin government reveals its budget March 23, work is under way to improve surveillance of Canadian waters as well as **port security**, with a modest amount of money to be set aside for those initiatives.

Improvements are planned to increase the flow of information between the coast guard, the navy and the fisheries department on the presence of foreign vessels off the country's coasts. An intergovernmental committee is also looking at freeing up more money for the installation of additional high-tech radars that can scan the surface of the ocean to detect such ships. Almost \$50 million has been committed to building those radars on the East and West coasts but the technology has been deemed so effective that the program could see more funding.

The government also plans to increase patrols of the Grand Banks, off Newfoundland, to crack down on foreign fishing fleets operating in the area, with the navy required to contribute ships to that effort.

But government sources confirmed that the military is not in line for any large amounts of money in the upcoming budget. The navy, which needs an extra \$140 million to do its job in the coming year, will receive less than 10 per cent of that.

Government officials argue it doesn't make sense to provide an influx of cash just before a review of military priorities is to begin this fall.

Alain Pellerin, an analyst with the Conference of Defence Associations, notes armed forces have told the government they need \$500 million in extra money for the upcoming year. "That shortfall has nothing at all to do with the defence review," he said. "It's what they need now if they're going to do the job that the government wants them to do."