

# New maritime-security cash little help, says industry

By John Colebourn  
Staff Reporter

Operators of maritime facilities on B.C.'s coast say new federal security funding totalling almost \$700 million offers little help to them.

Tim Chapman, president of the B.C. Maritime Employers Association and spokesman for the Canadian Coalition for Maritime Security, estimated it would cost port operators in Western Canada upwards of \$50 million to comply with a July 1 deadline for new security standards. Everything from improved fencing to gate access to surveillance cameras will soon have to

comply with Transport Canada's rules.

Chapman, who is also president of Western Stevedoring in North Vancouver, said the federal funding is disappointing as it offers no specific help to firms forced to upgrade their security. "The concern we have is that we should be assisted by the federal government," he said.

In trying to plug gaps in Canada's fight against the threat of terrorism, the federal government this week unveiled a plan that addresses six broad areas, including maritime security.

Chapman said the new security measures

will mean higher costs for those using maritime services. And the concern is also that with higher costs, business may move across the border. As well, Chapman points out the U.S. government has taken on much of the costs of upgrading security rather than have private business pay.

"Our industry is not asking for a handout," said Chapman. "It's asking for the federal government to set up a fund to provide for assistance to private industry to meet the new regulations."

Chapman said it is unfair to burden maritime operators with the huge cost of increased security since the 9/11 attacks.

Auditor-General Sheila Fraser last month said Canada's security measures needed a major overhaul in light of the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks in the U.S.

But Conservative House Leader John Reynolds, member of Parliament for West Vancouver-Sunshine Coast, called the new security measures an election ploy.

"It's a sham," Reynolds said.

"If you check with some of these people, they're happy with the RCMP's security right now."



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