



## **West Coast Ports' Employer Associations Announce Merger**

**For Immediate Release  
April 25, 2005**

Vancouver, B.C.— The membership of the Waterfront Foremen Employers Association (WFEA) and the British Columbia Maritime Employers Association (BCMEA) announce their decision to merge the two organizations to form a single association representing the interests of Canada's west coast waterfront employers and shippers.

The overwhelmingly positive merger vote on April 15, 2005 will result in a consolidation of the activities and functions of the BCMEA and WFEA. A transition team will be appointed in early May 2005 to oversee the transition, which is anticipated to take several months.

"This is a significant decision for west coast employers and shippers," said Frank Pasacreta, CEO of the BCMEA following approval of the merger by the membership. "This merger will eliminate duplication and overlap in services, improve advocacy and communication, and strengthen the collective bargaining process."

"For the waterfront industry, this is a positive step in the right direction," added Grant Mebs, President and CEO of the WFEA. "This merger will move the west coast ports closer towards the vision of being the lowest cost, most reliable ports in North America, with the safest waterfront in the world."

The BCMEA and WFEA represent a combined membership of over 70 employers and shippers operating in the west coast ports of Canada. The associations are responsible for the negotiation and administration of coastal-wide collective agreements with the ILWU Canadian Area and the ILWU Local 514, Ship & Dock Foremen.

For further information, contact:

Nicola Lambrechts or Claire Munroe  
NATIONAL Public Relations  
604-684-6655 or [nlambrechts@national.ca](mailto:nlambrechts@national.ca)