

CANADA Daily News and Updates October 16th 2023

Ocean Updates

- The Port of Montreal Longshoremen's Union and the Maritime Employers Association in Labour Dispute
- Ontario Releases First-Ever Marine Transportation Strategy
- ONE Now the Most Carbon-Efficient Carrier, as 'Shipping Gets Greener'
- St. Lawrence Seaway Workers Deliver Overwhelming Strike Mandate
- FIATA Says End of CBER Brings Back the 'Level Playing Field'

Rail and Truck Updates

- CPKC and CSX Plan to Connect Their Networks via Meridian & Bigbee Short Line

Canadian Business/Government

- TCC23-085: High-Volume E-Commerce Shipments Validation Rules, Effective February 25

International Business/Government

- WCO Launches Mobile App – HS Browse & Check

Ocean Updates

The Port of Montreal Longshoremen's Union and the Maritime Employers Association in Labour Dispute

Will Montreal have the same sad experience that Vancouver just suffered in July? Or will an effective federal government – normally all too willing to intervene in the economy – take steps to avoid a labour stoppage at the Port of Montreal which will damage the city's economy, especially small businesses.

The Port of Montreal Longshoremen's Union and the Maritime Employers Association are meeting now. The parties are already alleging bad faith. A legal strike could occur in January of 2024.

Ontario Releases First-Ever Marine Transportation Strategy

The Ontario government has released [The Future of the Great Lakes Economy: Ontario's Marine Transportation Strategy](#), outlining actions the province will take to strengthen Ontario's position in marine transportation.

The four-pillar strategy will serve as the foundation for building a strong and sustainable marine sector. It outlines near- and longer-term actions, including:

- Establishing the Ontario Marine Partnership and Development Office to oversee implementation of the strategy, be the key contact for industry stakeholders, and build awareness of Ontario's marine sector priorities.
- Strengthening connections between marine and other modes of transportation to keep people moving and get goods to market faster.
- Working closely with public and private industry partners to attract and retain more workers in the sector, including providing new and expanded internship opportunities.
- Harnessing green, low-carbon-emissions and alternative-fuels technologies that will support a more environmentally sustainable marine sector and transportation network.

Read more in a [press release from the Government of Ontario](#).

ONE Now the Most Carbon-Efficient Carrier, as 'Shipping Gets Greener'

Ocean Network Express (ONE) has been named by Xeneta as the most carbon-efficient carrier this year – and long-term measurements show shipping is “getting greener,” the research firm claimed.

Emissions on the Far East to U.S. east coast trades have fallen 23.3% since Q1 18, said Xeneta despite the onset of “over-tonnaging” and a major slippage in fill factor.

Short-term comparisons, meanwhile, reveal more drastic changes since the onset of the unique market dynamics in 2022, which skewed results in 2021-22.

Read more in an [article from The Loadstar](#).

St. Lawrence Seaway Workers Deliver Overwhelming Strike Mandate

Members of Unifor Local 4212 and Local 4323 in Ontario and 4320 in Quebec working for the St. Lawrence Seaway Corporation voted 99% in favour of a strike should negotiations not result in a deal by the October 21 strike deadline.

Bargaining will resume on October 17, 18 and 19.

Read more in a [press release from Unifor](#).

FIATA Says End of CBER Brings Back the 'Level Playing Field'

Forwarder group FIATA has welcomed the EC decision not to extend the Consortia Block Exemption Regulation (CBER), noting it is “key” for forwarders.

FIATA claimed the “intended benefits of the CBER [were] no longer met” and that “feedback received by FIATA showed that freight forwarders had not benefited from anticipated service efficiencies, and consumers “had not received significant cost savings.”

Dr. Stephane Graber, FIATA director general, said: “FIATA applauds the extensive considerations of the commission... that the CBER no longer promotes competition in the shipping sector, nor does it lead to any noticeable efficiency gains for the users of the system.”

Forwarders’ main concerns are over “the heightened risk of unfair market conditions under the CBER,” he said.

Read more in an [article from The Loadstar](#).

Rail and Truck Updates

CPKC and CSX Plan to Connect Their Networks via Meridian & Bigbee Short Line

Canadian Pacific Kansas City and CSX Transportation have detailed their plans to acquire Genesee & Wyoming short line Meridian & Bigbee in order to create a shortcut interchange route linking the Southeast and Mexico via Myrtlewood, Ala.

The deal, announced in June but outlined in a series of regulatory documents that appeared on the Surface Transportation Board website on October 10, involves several related transactions.

Read more in an [article from Trains](#).

Canadian Business/Government

TCC23-085: High-Volume E-Commerce Shipments Validation Rules, Effective February 25

Starting on February 25, 2024, commercial clients submitting high-volume e-commerce shipments will be subject to the following validation rules on documents submitted through EDI and the eManifest Portal. Clients exceeding the limits will see their transactions rejected.

- On the Integrated Import Declaration (IID) SO 911, the number of invoice lines cannot exceed 999 overall regardless of the number or combination of multi-line invoices used in the transmission.

- On the IID SO 911, the reported number of cargo control numbers (CCN) cannot exceed 999.
- On a highway conveyance SO 976, the reported number of CCNs cannot exceed 1,500.
- On a house bill close message SO 968, the reported number of house bills cannot exceed 999.
- The number of supplementary cargos SO 687 related to a cargo document cannot exceed 1,500.

These limitations were previously published in Customs Notice 20-24 in July 2020 and on the [CBSA High-volume e-commerce shipments webpage](#).

International Business/Government

WCO Launches Mobile App – HS Browse & Check

The World Customs Organization (WCO) has launched a mobile application, “HS Browse & Check,” designed to provide convenient access to the Harmonized System (HS) 2022.

Complementing WCO Trade Tools (wcotradetools.org), which provides tools for easy classification and other complementary content, the mobile app has been designed to ensure a quick verification of any H.S. code and navigation within the entire HS 2022.

The HS Browse & Check app provides a user-friendly platform to quickly access the content of HS 2022, including legal notes, explanatory notes and classification opinions.

The app is available for download on both the App Store and Google Play.

Read more in a [press release from the WCO](#).