

CANADA Daily News and Updates October 23rd 2023

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Ocean Updates

SLSMC Unionized Employees on Strike

Although the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation (SLSMC) and Unifor engaged in negotiations starting on October 17, they were unable to reach an agreement before the Unifor strike deadline set for 00:01 on October 22. As a result, Unifor locals 4211, 4319, 4212, 4323 and 4320 are now on strike. The Seaway will remain shut down until an agreement can be reached.

The SLSMC is awaiting a response to its Canada Industrial Relations Board application, seeking a ruling under the Canada Labour Code for the union to provide employees during a strike to ensure vessels engaged in the movement of grain continue transiting the system.

An orderly shutdown of the system took place during the 72-hour notice period allowing for vessels to safely clear the Seaway system. Currently, there are no vessels waiting to exit the system, but there are over 100 vessels outside the system that are impacted by the situation.

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

Carriers Fight Back Against Sub-Economic Rates with FAK Hikes

Ocean carriers are planning a wave of sizeable FAK rate hikes across the major east-west tradelanes next month, in an attempt to swivel voyage results back into the black.

And, with the 2024 budget season looming, the shipping lines will want to jettison unprofitable cargo from their customer portfolios.

For example, MSC has announced new freight rates, effective November 17, from the Mediterranean and North Europe to the U.S., Canada and Mexico, including a \$4,400 per 40-ft base rate from Antwerp to New York.

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

Amazon River Navigation Crisis

Navigable water depths on the Amazon River in Brazil have fallen to such low levels that shipping services to and from the region's main port Manaus and activities at the nearby free trade zone are now being severely disrupted.

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

Rail and Truck Updates

CTA Highlights Interprovincial Trade Barriers in New Report

With input from more than 4,500 respondents, the Canadian Trucking Alliance (CTA) has identified the industry's key issues in its latest report, [Interprovincial Trade Barriers in Trucking](#).

From increasing access to truck rest areas, cell service and trade data to twinning Hwy. 185 and strengthening oversight and accountability for truck safety – nationwide issues identified by provincial trucking associations and the country's carriers align with several of CTA's core policies.

Addressing these interprovincial barriers will help combat non-compliance in the industry and level the competitive playing field for responsible trucking companies, said Greg Munden, CTA's chairman.

Read more in an [article from Today's Trucking](#).

The Effects of AI on Fleet Management

Artificial intelligence is buzzing in just about every industry. It is greatly changing the trucking industry, from driving to office resources. This article looks at the future of transportation, AI in the trucking industry and fleet intelligence.

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