CANADA Daily News and Updates November 28th 2023

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Ocean Updates

'Dire' Scenario for Shipping Lines More Likely as Spot Rates Fall Back

There's a lot at stake for container lines' 2024 bottom lines in the last few weeks of 2023. If lines can't push up spot rates very soon, next year's annual contract rates will reset much lower versus this year's.

That scenario – which would have a very negative financial effect on liners – looks increasingly likely. Time is running out for a fourth-quarter rebound, and indexes show spot rates falling, not rising.

Shipping lines' attempts to use general rate increases (GRI) this month to improve their negotiating hand for annual contract resets have failed. They have one last chance in December, but their track record of getting GRIs to stick has been poor.

Read more in an article from American Shipper.

Truck Updates

Western Canadian Projects Raise Hydrogen Hopes

Western Canada's provincial governments continue to fuel interest in hydrogen for commercial vehicles.

British Columbia is just the latest jurisdiction to invest in the fuel, as it looks to kickstart the use of hydrogen-powered trucks with a \$16.5-million Pilot Hydrogen Truck Project. That will involve procuring six heavy-duty fuel-cell trucks and retrofitting fueling infrastructure under the direction of HTEC, which designs, builds and operates hydrogen production facilities.

The Western Canadian interest in hydrogen is not limited to B.C.

Bison Transport, along with Trimac Transportation, is participating in the \$7.3-million Alberta Zero Emissions Truck Electrification Collaboration (AZETEC), under which two long-range hydrogen fuel cell trucks will be designed, manufactured and tested on runs between Calgary and Edmonton.

Read more in an article from Today's Trucking.