

CANADA Daily News and Updates December 5th 2023

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Labour Relations Update, Port of Montreal

The Port of Montreal issued an update on ongoing labour negotiations between the Port of Montreal Longshore Workers' Union (CUPE Local 375) and the Maritime Employers Association (MEA). The port said:

"While the parties work with federal conciliation officers, the renewal process continues as provided for under the Canada Labour Code. Until the collective agreement expires on December 31, 2023, a number of steps regulated by the Canada Labour Code must be completed, and no party is permitted to disrupt Port of Montreal operations. Meanwhile, the MEA has applied to the Canada Industrial Relations Board (CIRB) for recognition of essential services at Port of Montreal terminals. The tribunal must decide whether it will consider the application prior to making a decision on this matter. Should the MEA's application be granted, the deadlines for renewing the collective agreement would be suspended pending a decision on the merits of the case.

"As part of our ongoing efforts, we have contacted each of the parties to emphasize the importance of this agreement to the various communities, businesses and users we serve. We have also filed an application for intervenor status in the MEA's application for recognition of essential services.

"We assure you, port operations are in no way affected by the collective agreement renewal process at this stage."

Quebec City Longshoremen Reject Mediator's Recommendation to End Lockout

At a meeting on December 1, longshoremen at the Port of Quebec voted 70% against the proposal from a mediator. With the holidays approaching and the possibility of a second Christmas on the picket lines, the members rejected the offer as insufficient.

"It's a ... message to the employer that, after 15 months of lockout, there can be no half-deal. The parties need to get back to the bargaining table and find common ground that satisfies both parties," said Nina Laflamme, CUPE union representative.

The longshoremen have been locked out since September 15, 2022. To carry out the work at the port, the employer uses replacement workers.

Read more in a [press release from CUPE](#) (translated from French).

Minister of Transport Announces the Green Shipping Corridor Program to Help Cut Pollution in Marine Shipping

On December 1, the Minister of Transport, the Honorable Pablo Rodriguez, announced the creation of the Green Shipping Corridor Program, an investment of \$165.4 million, and launched a call for proposals under this program. The program will establish green shipping corridors and help decarbonize the marine sector in major shipping areas along the Great Lakes, the St. Lawrence Seaway, and Canada's east and west coasts.

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

The Port of Montreal, QSL and Oceanex Collaborate to Create a Domestic Green Corridor

At a side event at COP28, currently underway in Dubai, the Montreal Port Authority (MPA), Oceanex and QSL on December 4 announced their collaboration to create the first domestic green shipping corridor between Quebec and Newfoundland. This corridor will make it possible to green one of Eastern Canada's busiest shipping routes, used daily between the Port of Montreal and the Port of St. John's, and served by Oceanex and QSL. This initiative is part of efforts to propel the energy transition and play a leading role in decarbonizing the shipping industry.

Read more in a [press release from the Montreal Port Authority](#).

Report: Green Shipping Corridor Initiatives Doubled in 2023

Green shipping corridors are emerging as one of the promising approaches to accelerate climate action in shipping. At the ongoing COP28 Climate Summit in Dubai, this initiative has received yet another major backing, with the U.S., Denmark, and the Maersk Mc-Kinney Moller Center pledging to join forces to establish Global South Green Corridors.

The announcement of the plans for the latest green corridor initiative coincided with the release of the 2023 Annual Progress Report on Green Shipping Corridor, prepared by the Global Maritime Forum on behalf of Getting to Zero Coalition. The report reveals that the number of green corridor initiatives around the world doubled in the last year from 21 to 44. It goes on to project that 2024 will prove pivotal for green corridors, buoyed by increased governmental efforts to establish these routes as well as sustained industry and port efforts.

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