

# CANADA Daily News and Updates January 19th 2024

## Ocean Updates

- Australian Port Strike Peace Talks Fail, and Government Won't Intervene
- Shippers Turn to U.S. West Coast Terminals to Avoid Threat of Union Action and Panama and Suez Canal Container Shipping Disruption
- Egypt Grapples with Impact of Red Sea Hits on Suez Canal Revenue
- EU States Give Nod to Red Sea Mission to Deter Houthis, Say Diplomats
- Port of Prince Rupert Handles 23.5 Million Tonnes of Cargo in 2023, A 5 Percent Annual Decline

## Ocean Updates

### **Australian Port Strike Peace Talks Fail, and Government Won't Intervene**

A meeting yesterday between DP World Australia, the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) and Australian transport minister Tony Burke proved unsuccessful, and the port strikes will go on to the end of the month.

Dock workers throughout Australia have been striking since October in a pay dispute against port operator DP World. DP World estimated this has cost the economy A\$1.34 billion.

The meeting resulted in Mr. Burke refusing to intervene, despite being requested to do so by DP World and multiple stakeholders in Australian shipping. This led the MUA to extend its strike action to January 30.

Maersk has warned customers that port operations at Sydney, Melbourne, Fremantle and Brisbane will see bouts of two-hour work stoppages every day from January 22.

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

### **Shippers Turn to U.S. West Coast Terminals to Avoid Threat of Union Action and Panama and Suez Canal Container Shipping Disruption**

Some container traffic that migrated to U.S. Gulf and East Coast ports in recent years is now being switched back to West Coast gateways by retailers and forwarders desperate to avoid supply chain disruption.

Low water on the Panama Canal and the de facto closure of the Suez Canal to container shipping due to Houthi militant attacks on vessels are causing scheduling chaos and soaring freight rates on many Asia to U.S. East Coast box services.

Accelerating the coastal transfer is “sabre rattling” by dockworker unions representing stevedores manning U.S. East Coast and Gulf Coast terminals. This is spooking retailers, said Jon Gold, VP for Supply Chain and Customs Policy at the National Retail Federation.

Read more in an [article from the American Journal of Transportation](#).

### **Egypt Grapples with Impact of Red Sea Hits on Suez Canal Revenue**

Egypt pushed ahead with an increase in transit fees through the Suez Canal this week, as a need for foreign currency trumped a fall in maritime traffic due to Houthi attacks on shipping in the Red Sea.

Revenue for the North African nation from the vital waterway has slumped as some ships avoid the canal to protect themselves from missile and drone assaults. But rather than delay the long-planned hike, Cairo is betting additional income from those still transiting will help the cash-strapped economy.

Traffic volumes through the Suez Canal were down 30% between January 1 and January 11 compared with a year earlier, according to canal authority head Osama Rabie.

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

### **EU States Give Nod to Red Sea Mission to Deter Houthis, Say Diplomats**

European Union member states have given initial backing to a naval mission to protect ships from attacks by Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi militia in the Red Sea, European diplomats said on Tuesday, after the launch of a U.S.-led mission in the region.

The diplomats said the bloc's Political and Security Committee, responsible for preparing foreign and defence policy, had given its initial support for the mission.

The objective was to establish it by February 19 at the latest and make it operational soon afterwards. Several diplomats said they hoped the process could be fast-tracked, given the tensions in the region. It will be discussed by foreign ministers on January 22.

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

### **Port of Prince Rupert Handles 23.5 Million Tonnes of Cargo in 2023, A 5 Percent Annual Decline**

The Prince Rupert Port Authority (PRPA) moved 23.5 million tonnes of cargo through the Port of Prince Rupert in 2023, five percent less than volumes in 2022.

This marks the third consecutive year of volume decline and reflects challenges of shifting global shipping routes, soft demand for imports and competition with other North American trade gateways for discretionary cargo. However, despite the decline in volumes, significant milestones were reached in 2023 that support the evolution of the trade gateway to become more competitive, resilient and sustainable in the near and long term.

Read more in a [press release from the Port of Prince Rupert](#).