

CANADA Daily News and Updates October 25th 2024

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- Freight Rates on Major Ocean Trades Out of India Continue to Slide
- Montreal Port Authority Enters Strategic Partnership with SOFIAC to Improve Energy Efficiency and Reduce GHG Emissions

Rail Updates

- Railways and Union to Begin Binding Arbitration Meetings in March

Ocean Updates

Union Issues Notice of 24-Hour Strike at Port of Montreal

The Maritime Employers Association (MEA) received a strike notice on October 24 from the Port of Montreal Longshoremen's Union, CUPE Local 375, which will see a complete stoppage of work on Port of Montreal territory, including the Contrecœur terminal, for 24 hours, from Sunday, October 27, at 7:00 am to Monday, October 28, at 6:59 am.

MGT noted that, as a result, trucking service hours will be closed until 7:00 am on Monday.

Freight Rates on Major Ocean Trades Out of India Continue to Slide

There seems to be no immediate halt to the freight rate slide on the larger tradelanes out of India, as head-haul volumes for container carriers remain increasingly tight, say industry observers.

Spot rates on the India-U.S. east coast trade have plunged below \$3,000 per TEU from a high of more than \$10,000 in July.

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

Montreal Port Authority Enters Strategic Partnership with SOFIAC to Improve Energy Efficiency and Reduce GHG Emissions

In a bid to enhance energy efficiency and reduce its carbon footprint, the Montreal Port Authority (MPA) has entered into a strategic partnership with SOFIAC, an investment fund specializing in decarbonization. SOFIAC will support the MPA in a comprehensive energy efficiency project that has the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from its operational buildings by over 60%.

With an investment from SOFIAC that could reach several million dollars, the MPA will benefit from deep retrofit without needing to invest its own capital. SOFIAC's innovative model allows the investment to be repaid from the energy savings generated by the project. In line with its comprehensive support approach, SOFIAC will oversee the entire implementation process with its technical partners.

The project will target the MPA's three main buildings: the Cité du Havre building, the MPA's headquarters; the Grand Quai of the Port of Montreal, an iconic location for Montrealers situated

in the Old Port; and the building housing the infrastructure management, mechanical workshops and rail operations located at 3400 Notre-Dame East.

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

Rail Updates

Railways and Union to Begin Binding Arbitration Meetings in March

Following the August 23 order from the Canada Industrial Relations Board (CIRB) imposing binding arbitration between CN, CPKC and the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference (TCRC), CN recently announced it has agreed on an arbitrator to determine the terms of the next collective agreement.

Mediation meetings will occur over seven days in March. If a mediated settlement is not reached during those seven days, arbitration will be scheduled to take place in April. As per the protocol negotiated between the parties, the arbitrator will have 60 days to make a ruling. In view of this, a decision is expected before the end of the second quarter.

CIRB also directed that the current collective agreement remain in place until a new one is reached, meaning no strike or lockout can occur.

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