

# Canadian Merchant Service Guild

Western Branch

December, 2010



## Dear Members...

As 2010 nears its end, the Western Branch continues to deal with the issues that impact on our Members.

We have had a busy year to say the least:

- ▶ We have sent Representatives to the CMSG National Board and the Canadian Marine Advisory Committee (CMAC) meetings.
- ▶ We have represented our membership regarding jurisdictional and regulatory issues at both the BC and Canada Labour Relations Boards.
- ▶ The Branch has advocated for our Members at the numerous stages of Workers' Compensation appeals.
- ▶ Our Business Agents have filed numerous grievances and presented a number of arbitration cases on behalf of the membership.
- ▶ Bargaining has not been an easy task. We are dealing with the after-effects of the recession and subsequent layoffs of many of our Members that started at the end of 2008.
- ▶ We have been active in successfully re-negotiating a number of our Collective Agreements during 2010. Bargaining will continue into 2011 until all outstanding agreements are ratified by their respective Members.
- ▶ During 2010, we witnessed a number of our certifications merge, close or sell off and buy assets as they set their business plans for the future.

That said, the Branch is looking forward, with optimism, as the economy continues to show signs of recovery. The Guild intends to be there representing your collective rights moving ahead into the new year.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of myself, the Branch Executive and Employees, to wish you and yours Seasons Greetings.

In Solidarity,

**WESTERN BRANCH**

Captain Neil MacDougall  
President