

**Update For All Guild Members  
In the Government Ships' Officer (GSO) Bargaining Unit  
October, 2026**

You will recall that a few months ago, the Canadian Merchant Service Guild requested members who are included in the GSO bargaining unit to submit recommendations for improvements and changes to their Ships' Officers collective agreement, and we want to thank members for their overwhelming response and the detailed information provided.

On September 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>, the GSO advisory Committee, comprised of Guild staff from across the country, and the elected Guild representatives employed in every Coast Guard region, and the KHM Units on both coasts, as well as at the Coast Guard Academy, held a meeting in Ottawa. The meeting was chaired by Bernard Talbot, the National Secretary-Treasurer and Guild Labour Relations Officer Sarah Lewis. Advice and assistance was provided to the committee by the Western Branch President, Capt. Randy Smigel, and the National President, Capt. Mark Boucher.

This Committee carefully reviewed copies of every proposal submitted by the members who are included in the bargaining unit. Many proposals identified similar trends of serious problems, frustrations, and deficiencies for the Guild to attempt to resolve in negotiations. By the conclusion of the meeting, a significant package of proposals in response to these concerns was formulated by the Committee. Specific language is now being carefully drafted to ensure the best way forward to address those proposals.

The National Office of the Guild maintains frequent communication with the Employer (Treasury Board) on the matter of the upcoming collective bargaining, as well as other employment-related issues. After the proposals are exchanged between the Guild and the Treasury Board, the proposal packages from both parties, will be posted onto the Guild website. We will continue to keep members informed of developments using the *GuildE-info* system. Please contact your local Guild office if you need to update your email address, or if you have concerns or require assistance related to the GSO contract.