



CCG crew member lost at sea

As you are aware, on September 16, [a crew member was discovered missing](#) from the CCGS *Vincent Massey*. Crews at sea and in the air immediately began an extensive search and rescue operation. It is with great sadness that I inform you that the search and rescue operation for our Canadian Coast Guard colleague who is missing at sea ended last evening. This is an incredibly difficult time for all of us.

You have often heard me say that the Canadian Coast Guard is a family. This is especially true when we consider the bond often shared by shipmates, who in many ways become our extended family when we are away from home. When we lose one of our own, we all feel the loss.

It is at times like this that we need to lean on each other. My thoughts and condolences are with the employee's family and friends, as well as our colleagues in Central and Atlantic Regions who sailed with him and worked closely with him for many years. I speak from personal experience when I say that he was a dedicated member of our Coast Guard family and he will be deeply missed.

Please note that our [Critical Incident Stress Management](#) (CISM) program has been deployed to provide peer support and assistance to Canadian Coast Guard employees involved and impacted by this incident. The [Employee Assistance Program](#) (EAP) remains available to all employees. The EAP is a free and confidential professional counselling service available 24 hours a day at 1-800-268-7708 or 1-800-567-5803 (TTY).

I am very proud of each and every employee in the Canadian Coast Guard. I would also like to extend gratitude to all of our colleagues and partners who assisted. In times of great difficulty, we always demonstrate tremendous strength and compassion, and we will continue to support each other in the days ahead, as we always do.

Mario Pelletier

Commissioner

Canadian Coast Guard