



FOUNDED 1917

# The Canadian Merchant Service Guild

A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
MASTERS – MATES – PILOTS – ENGINEERS AND OTHER MARINE OFFICERS

AFFILIATED WITH

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME PILOTS' ASSOCIATION

INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT WORKERS FEDERATION

Guild Members,

As previously informed, the Guild has been active against the recommendation of the Canada Transportation Act (CTA) Review to eliminate within 7 years, the requirement that Canadian-flagged vessels and Canadian crews continue to be used in the domestic trade (Cabotage). This recommendation in the CTA review in 2016, followed after the federal government agreed in 2014 to a Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement with Europe (CETA) to allow foreign ships to perform work in Canada related to some container movements and some dredging projects. Prior to the finalized results being announced in 2014, this outrageous CETA agreement was negotiated for years in secret with no input from labour groups. Maritime unions, including the Guild, formed a coalition against CETA to ensure that the displeasure of Canadian workers with CETA is well known and viewed as the thin edge of the wedge in the attack against Canadian seafarers.

Unlike CETA, which was already finalized before it was released in 2014, the recommendations of the CTA Review of 2016 have not been implemented and are open for feedback. The Guild prepared a comprehensive submission to the Minister of Transport including a detailed analysis showing that if the CTA recommendation on cabotage were to be implemented it would result in the loss of approximately 12,000 good Canadian jobs and significant tax revenue. To perform our analysis, the Guild reached out to all the major stakeholders in the Canadian maritime sector to obtain detailed information. All those who participated, including the ILWU, are listed in the acknowledgements in our study.

The Guild's summary submission to the Minister, as well as our detailed 39-page study which accompanied it, are posted on the Guild website. Instead of being only confined to the impact on Guild members, the study provides data on the realistic potential impact of the CTA recommendation across workers in the entire sector, including marine schools.

We continue fighting on behalf of our Officers and the Marine Industry, and representing our members' interests in Ottawa. With strong opposition, the recommendations in the CTA Review may not become a priority for the federal government due to so many other high-profile issues that are currently underway. However, it is important to continue to take a strong stand against this proposal which has not been scrapped, and has a huge potential to impact jobs of Canadian workers if it regains momentum.

We have received an invitation to take part in a campaign alongside the ILWU, SIU and ILA. Therefore we encourage you to participate and show your support:

## Transport Workers Day of Action - Thursday, January 12, 2017

Rallies in B. C. will take place at the 3 following locations with assembling starting at 09:45

- In Vancouver: 1030 Denman Street - Office of Hon. Hedy Fry, MP
- Prince Rupert: 309 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue - Office of Transport Canada
- In Victoria: Ogden Point - The cable-laying vessel operated by Global Marine

Media coverage is expected at Ogden Point, and organizers are hoping for a big turn-out at the protest/rally where this foreign vessel is usually tied up alongside. We encourage members to participate in this campaign which is intended to draw attention to the important value of protecting transportation jobs in Canada.

### CMMSG WESTERN OFFICE

#310 - 218 Blue Mountain Street, Coquitlam, BC V3K 4H2

☎ 604-939-8990

☎ 604-939-8950

☎ 1-800-929-2674

✉ [cmmsgwb@cmmsg.org](mailto:cmmsgwb@cmmsg.org)

★ [www.cmmsg-gmmc.ca](http://www.cmmsg-gmmc.ca)