



November 18, 2002

Hon. David Collenette  
Minister of Transport  
Transport Canada  
Place de Ville, Tower C, 29<sup>th</sup> Floor  
330 Sparks Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0N5

Dear Minister Collenette:

**Re.: Canada Marine Act Review Submission**

Enclosed is the joint submission of the Western Provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, for your consideration as part of the review of the *Canada Marine Act*.

As you appreciate, the Western Provinces are major users of the Canadian marine transportation system. Ports are vital to the economic well being of the western economic region as they are for all regions of Canada. Our recommendations are offered with the objective of ensuring that the port system serving the western economy can be competitive with US ports and provide affordable, reliable and responsive service to western shippers.

The changes we endorse will help support the vision of our ports continuing to evolve as gateways to all of North America, in conjunction with an integrated intermodal system. There are significant opportunities for growth, especially for traffic related to containers and cruise passengers.

Canada's port authorities must be able to respond to market forces in a timely manner. A key aspect of our submission relates to the need to ensure that port authorities have the financial flexibility to assemble the necessary capital for infrastructure improvements and land acquisition while recognizing the need for governance arrangements that promote increased public accountability. Oversight of port development from a regional and overall system perspective is also required, to enhance port competitiveness.

Due to its coastline, British Columbia in particular relies on a system of viable ports for local marine transportation, whether they are Canada Port Authority or public ports. The system facilitates the movement of an estimated 70 million tonnes of domestic marine freight each year. Almost 60 public ports have been transferred to local western interests. Transition funding arrangements for the divestiture of public ports to local interests must be examined to facilitate their long-term viability.

As you know, the Provinces and Territories have developed a joint vision for the future of transportation for Canada, to serve as input to and to complement the work your Department is doing to develop its own vision. Our submission for your review of the *Canada Marine Act* is provided with the same spirit of cooperation and collaboration. We recognize that we must work cooperatively in order to arrive at a consumer oriented, efficient, integrated transportation system for Canada that allows us to remain competitive and continue to meet the needs of all users.

We look forward to the results of the review of the *Canada Marine Act* and request your consideration of our suggestions.

Yours truly,

**Council of Western Provincial Transportation Ministers**

Hon. Judith Reid  
British Columbia Minister of Transportation

Hon. Ed Stelmach  
Alberta Minister of Transportation

Hon. Mark Wartman  
Saskatchewan Minister of Highways and Transportation

Hon. Scott Smith  
Manitoba Minister of Transportation and Government Services

Encl.

cc. CMA Review Panel