

December 12, 2006

Honourable Donna Cansfield  
Ministry of Transportation  
77 Wellesley St W, 3rd Flr, Ferguson Block  
Toronto ON M7A 2A2

Dear Minister

From the feedback received during the Summit and over the last two weeks we can comfortably report to you that all participants (list attached) were very pleased that the Summit took place. Comments such as “long overdue”, “a good start” and “beneficial dialogue” were shared by all participants. Your office and Ministry staff must also be thanked for their cooperation and participation. Without their assistance the Summit could not have been as successful as it was.

Those who attended were pleased with the format for the day, especially the inter-active format of the discussions. All participants were impressed by your participation at the Summit and by your many positive comments about the potential for marine transportation within Ontario. Participants were also impressed by the commencement of dialogue on marine transportation matters between you and Madame Julie Boulet, Quebec’s Minister for Transportation.

Your message about the need for “sustainability” in our transportation systems was well received by all participants. Your involvement has gone a long way to raise the profile of Ontario’s marine transportation industry both within Ontario and beyond. We hope the Summit will become an annual meeting among government(s) and Ontario’s marine industry.

Overall, the feedback received from all participants was very positive. We have a strong consensus from the participants to continue to move forward with the initiative to develop an Ontario focussed marine policy and to capitalize on the momentum established at the Summit. We will continue to work to develop a strong and positive coalition between all levels of government and Ontario’s marine transportation industry.

Yours truly,  
**ONTARIO MARINE TRANSPORTATION FORUM**



Wayne A. Smith  
President OMTF

**ONTARIO MARINE TRANSPORTATION SUMMIT**  
**Co-sponsored by the Ontario Ministry of Transportation and the**  
**Ontario Marine Transportation Forum**

**November 28, 2006, Sheraton Hotel, Toronto**

*Draft Report*

**Summit Conclusions and Recommendation**

The following framework for an Ontario Marine Policy was proposed at the Summit;

1. *Ontario's marine transportation infrastructure should be utilized to;*
  - a) *Optimize Ontario's transportation infrastructure and improve intermodal efficiency.*
  - b) *Enhance economic development and trade opportunities in Ontario.*
  - c) *Improve the environmental and safety impact of transportation within Ontario.*
  
2. *Ontario's marine transportation infrastructure should be enhanced through;*
  - a) *Improved cooperation between the governments of Ontario, Quebec, Canada, municipalities and U.S. Great Lake states.*
  - b) *Promote Ontario's marine transportation industry through public / private partnerships.*

The following briefly summarizes participant's top five marine transportation policy priorities;

1. *Develop an Ontario focused Marine Policy. An Ontario policy will provide the foundation for Ontario's advocacy of its marine transportation interests with other governments.*
2. *Develop an Ontario Ports Strategy as an impetus for economic development and to improve transportation efficiency.*
3. *Create an Ontario focused research capability to support the development of marine transportation projects. Develop fiscal means to support viable marine transportation projects.*
4. *Enhance promotion / branding of marine transportation. The H2O campaign is a very good start but more resources are required. There is excellent potential for public / private partnership to improve awareness of Ontario's marine transportation opportunities.*
5. *Support Ontario's marine education requirements by helping to meet Georgian College's funding requirements.*

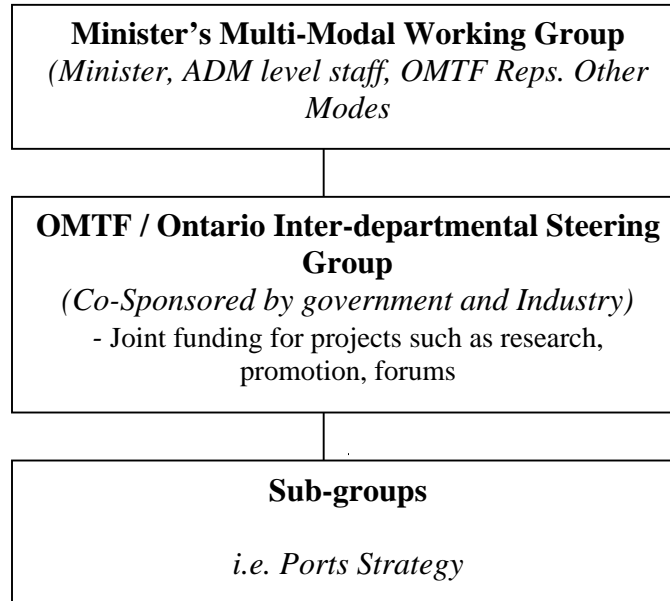
The following summarizes participant's top five action items that should be addressed in the near term;

1. *Make the OMTF permanent and adequately resourced. Explore the potential for a 3P structure. An inter-departmental Ontario Government and OMTF Steering Group structure should be maintained, however, senior levels need to be at the table. Need to pursue ongoing dialogue with Quebec and the federal government. U.S. state and federal governments to be involved as necessary (eg: international trade).*
2. *Strengthen support for Minister's transportation sustainability effort. Possible actions involving Ontario's marine transportation industry may include the creation of a bipartisan "Ontario Marine Caucus" and the development of an annual Ontario marine awareness day,*
3. *Enhance marine transportation industry research and data collection for policy development and to support new project development.*
4. *Create a stand-alone Multi-modal MTO department to focus on the development of multi-modal transportation options and to ensure that sustainability, inter-modality and transportation efficiency are pursued and achieved.*
5. *Develop shared industry, Federal and provincial funding mechanism to meet Georgian College's funding requirements.*

We have considered and discussed the action items outlined above and would like to suggest to you some possible steps that can be taken to move forward on the items;

1. ***Establish a Minister of Transport- Multimodal table.***
  - a. To include a broad representation of industry and government
  - b. To meet twice a year
  - c. The main goal will be to move interest and issues concerning the sustainability of Ontario's transportation systems and intermodal efficiency.
  - d. This table will be supported by a multi-modal department within MTO.
2. ***Make the OMTF a permanent and appropriately resourced body to provide needed inputs into Ontario's transportation planning.***
  - e. Ministry to support the OMTF's objectives either directly through cost sharing of research staff or through shared research and promotional funding.
3. ***Create a multi-modal department within the Ministry of Transportation.***
  - f. This will clearly establish the commitment of Government to sustainability and multimodal efficiency
4. ***Finalize cost sharing agreement for marine training programs at Georgian College.***

## Proposed Working Group Structures for Ontario's Marine Industry



There are three dates that we wish to discuss as possible dates for announcements of marine policy and strategic actions. These dates are,

- Marine Club – Friday Jan. 19, 2007.
- OMTF presentation to Liberal Caucus, date TBA.
- Transportation Minister's meeting in Quebec, date TBA.

Planning for the proposed Ontario – Quebec Minister's meeting needs to commence. The OMTF is willing to liaise with Quebec officials and industry representatives to help make this meeting as meaningful and mutually beneficial as possible.