

FACT SHEET

- The Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Waterway is over 3,740 km long, stretching from the Lakehead at Lake Superior to the Gulf of St. Lawrence. It is longer than the Atlantic Ocean is wide.
- Nearly half the Waterway including all of the Great Lakes is stretched along Ontario's southern border.
- US states with borders along the Great Lakes include: New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota.
- More than 40 provincial and interstate highways and nearly 30 railroad companies connect Great Lakes ports with key cities throughout Canada and the United States.
- The Great Lakes – St. Lawrence Waterway generates more than \$4 billion and 17,000 direct jobs in Canada while adding another \$3 billion and 50,000 jobs to the US economy
- The marine transportation industry in Ontario was responsible for \$2.2 billion of provincial GDP in 2003.
- In 2003, more than 40 million tonnes of cargo moved along the Seaway system alone.
- Ontario is home to 15 of Canada's leading ports, which are responsible for nearly 30% of Canada's domestic marine trade
- In 2003, Ontario's ports handled more than 67 million tonnes of cargo
 - An equivalent movement by road would require almost 3 million truck trips annually
- Ontario ports represent 17% of Canada's international port trade.
- Major Ontario users/commodities that depend on water transportation include:
 - Steel Industry – iron ore, coal, coke
 - Aggregates and construction materials – sand, limestone, crushed limestone, gypsum, cement
 - Power generation – coal
 - Agriculture – potash, grain, corn, oil seeds
 - Petroleum products
 - Road salt
- One 28,000 tonne load wheat, carried by a Great Lakes vessel, is enough wheat to make bread for all residents in Toronto, Ottawa, Hamilton, and London (Ontario's four most heavily populated cities) for nearly one month. A similar vessel of coal, is enough to generate electricity to power the entire City of Toronto for an entire day.

- One ship with a typical capacity of 25,000 metric tonnes is equivalent to 225 rail cars and 875 trucks.
- Marine transportation has many environmental advantages, is the safest mode of transportation and is able to utilize available low-cost infrastructure.
- A ship can move a tonne of freight up to 800 kms (500 miles) on 4 litres (one gallon) of fuel.

Environmental and Safety Indices By Mode of Transport

Category	Marine Factor	Marine Index	Rail Index	Truck Index
Energy Efficiency	130 kjoule / t-km	1	2.2	9.7
Air Emissions	15.73 g / t-km	1	1.4	7.6
Accidents	0.026/100 M t-km	1	13.7	74.7
Spills	0.008/100 M t-km	1	10.0	37.5
Noise Levels	66 dB	1	1.4	1.3

**Étude comparative des impacts environnementaux
des modes de transport de marchandises dans l'axe du Saint-Laurent, Annexe 1**

- Only one marine accident is recorded for every 13.7 rail accidents and 74.7 truck accidents.
- Only one marine spill is recorded for every 10 rail spills and 37.5 truck spills.
- Transport Canada reported 576 fatal accidents involving commercial vehicles on Canadian highways in 2003.

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