

## Marine Transportation Vital to Province's Economy: Study

**T**oronto – The Ontario Marine Transportation Forum (OMTF) today released its one-year study to better understand the state of Ontario's marine industry. The study was jointly commissioned with the Government of Ontario and assesses key challenges and opportunities facing Ontario's marine transportation industry. Ontario makes up almost half of the total vast coastline of the entire Great Lakes basin.

"The study highlights not only the economic importance of the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Seaway, but also its important environmental role in reducing Ontario's carbon footprint," said Tim Heney, President of the Ontario Marine Transportation Forum (OMTF). "It (The Study) also touches upon issues that need to be addressed to strengthen the competitiveness of Ontario's marine network and trade corridors."

"I would like to thank the Ontario Marine Transportation Forum for working with us in putting this study together," said Jim Bradley, Ontario's Minister of Transportation. "This study highlights the importance of the marine sector to our economy."

### Key Findings from The Study include:

- The Marine Industry is an integral means of moving goods for several key industries, including steel and power generation, in Ontario. This volume (of marine transported goods) simply could not be handled by an already overburdened land-based transportation system without compromising the competitiveness of these industries;
- Marine Transportation is particularly essential to the transportation of steel, where there is currently no practical alternative for transporting the substantial volumes of iron ore and coal essential to this industry;
- Water transportation also generates "green" benefits. These benefits arise from reduced greenhouse gas emissions from using ships rather than roads for bulk cargo transportation; and
- The benefits also arise from effectively reducing the demand on an already congested land transportation system, thereby limiting congestion costs and related greenhouse gas emission costs.

While these findings clearly indicate the vast importance of marine transportation, continued partnership with the Government of Ontario is required to address several issues associated with the marine industry's economic competitiveness, noted Heney.

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