The Canadian Merchant Service Guild
A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MASTERS - MATES – PILOTS – ENGINEERS AND OTHER MARINE OFFICERS
La Guilde de la Marine Marchande du Canada
INCORPORATED 1919 ASSOCIATION NATIONALE DES CAPITAINES – OFFICIERS DE PONT – PILOTES – MÉCANICIENS ET AUTRES OFFICIERS MARINS
AFFILIATED WITH / AFFILIÉE À
INTERNATIONAL MARITIME PILOTS' ASSOCIATION - INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT WORKERS' FEDERATION - NATIONAL JOINT COUNCIL OF CANADA
ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DES PILOTES MARITIMES - FÈDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES OUVRIERS DU TRANSPORT - CONSEIL NATIONAL MIXTE DU CANADA
OTTAWA – VANCOUVER – ST.CATHARINES – QUÉBEC – DARTMOUTH – ST. JOHN'S

Bulletin for Government Ships' Officers – 13 June, 2025

This week the Prime Minister made an announcement that the Canadian Coast Guard would be moving under the leadership of the Minister of National Defence and that the change would permit the Coast Guard to better fulfill its new security responsibilities. Initial information indicated that as this process gradually unfolds, the Coast Guard will continue to carry out its work under the leadership of the Minister of Fisheries.

This followed the tabling in Parliament on June 3rd, of the *Strong Borders Act*, a bill proposing to expand CCG services to include security activities. The introduction of Bill C-2 explained that currently CCG can only collect and share information for safety purposes. The proposed amendments would allow the CCG to collect, analyze and share information with security, defence, and intelligence partners on what is happening in the maritime domain while continuing to deliver search and rescue programs, icebreaking services, environmental response, and ensuring safe navigation and supporting ocean science.

On June 12th, the Guild National Officers met in person with the Commissioner of the Coast Guard and senior Coast Guard officials to engage in consultation on this transition and to begin to review any potential impacts on Guild members. The Commissioner explained that in general, this is a change that will improve the abilities of the Coast Guard to better secure Canadian sovereignty and expand maritime surveillance. He also indicated that the Coast Guard will remain a civilian organization, but there are many other details and decisions to be worked out by the machinery of government.

The Guild emphasized our expectation of the importance of improvements in training, compensation, and the many other factors that will need to accompany any additional responsibilities or changes in the nature of the work of ships' officers.

Members are reminded that the Guild has a broad network of contacts at the highest levels in the Defence Department due to the many civilian public service ships' officers we already represent in the bargaining unit.

At this very early stage, there are bound to be more questions than there are answers to what lies ahead. All the Guild staff across the country commit to continue their advocacy to support members during this period of uncertainty. We will continue to update GSO's in a timely manner.