CCG Update // Mise à jour GCC

Thursday, August 7, 2025 // Jeudi 7 août 2025

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Transcript

Jollez, Katia (she, her / elle, la) (DFO/MPO)

- Hello everyone, and welcome to our Canadian Coast Guard Update meeting. We're glad you could join us today.
- Bonjour à tous et merci de nous joindre aujourd'hui pour la mise à jour de la Garde côtière canadienne.
- I am joined by Commissioner Mario Pelletier and Deputy Commissioner of CCG Programs Marc Mes.
- My name is Katia Jollez. I am the Director General of the new Change Management and Integration Office. This is an office that was just recently established to support the Coast Guard's transition to the Department of National Defence.
- Je m'appelle Katia Jollez. Je suis la directrice générale du nouveau Bureau de la gestion du changement et de l'intégration. C'est un bureau établi afin d'appuyer la transition de la Garde côtière dans le ministère de la Défense nationale.
- To increase accessibility for our audience members with no vision, low vision, or vision impairment, I will describe myself.
- Je suis une femme aux cheveux bruns, je porte des lunettes brunes et une chemise bleue avec un veston blanc.
- Avant de commencer, je tiens à reconnaître les territoires et les terres ancestrales sur lesquels nous nous trouvons aujourd'hui.
- We are hosting today's event in Ottawa on the unceded, unsurrendered Territory of the Anishinaabe Algonquin people.
- As we're also broadcasting this meeting on a virtual platform across the country, I invite you to reflect on the history of the lands and cultures of the Indigenous Peoples in your area, in what we now know as Canada.
- I'd like to share a few housekeeping items to make sure our event today runs smoothly.
- If you run into issues with the quality of the stream, you can disconnect from the VPN and this should not affect your access to MS Teams.

- For information about live captions and interpretation services, or to reach the Coast Guard Event team for technical support, please check the chat where details have just been shared.
- Donc pour des informations sur les services de traduction et les services d'interprétation, ou pour communiquer avec l'équipe techniques de la Garde côtière, veuillez consulter l'information ou les détails que nous avons partagé dans le chat.
- So let's get started with today's update. I'd now like to invite Commissioner Pelletier to share a few words.

Pelletier, Mario (DFO/MPO)

- Excellent, merci beaucoup Katia.
- Un bon matin ou après-midi dépendant où vous êtes.
- Donc je vais juste couvrir quelques points avant de tourner vers Marc qui va aller un peu plus en détails.
- So good afternoon, everyone. I just want to cover a few points before I turn it to Marc.
- Mostly what we're going to be talking about is what was included in the Notes from the Desk of the last couple of months, but where we can elaborate a little bit more and provide more information. But it's still very much in flux.
- Donc tout ce que nous allons parler est basé sur les Notes que nous avons envoyé déjà depuis quelques mois. Mais tout est encore vraiment, vraiment fluide.
- Je pense que je vais donc commencer par dire que, du côté politique, ça été très dynamique depuis quelques mois. Puisque certaines des choses affect évidement la Garde côtière et son future.
- So over the last few months, I got to say from a political perspective, it has been very dynamic and some of what's happening obviously does affect the Coast Guard.
- I think I could summarize in three lines of action that actually will affect the special operating agency that we are.
- Donc oui je peux mettre en sommaire là ces trois lignes d'actions sur lesquels ont travaillent et qui vont affecter l'agence ou l'organisation de service spéciaux que nous sommes.
- Donc ces trois lignes d'action là, et puis Marc, comme indiqué plutôt donnera plus de détails, c'est l'investissements pour étendre la portée et les capacités de la Garde côtière. Donc on parle du mandat de sécurité. C'est aussi les responsabilités de la Garde côtière qui transitionne du ministre des Pêches au ministre de la Défense nationale. Et puis finalement il y a la revue exhautives des dépenses là où chaque ministère sont invité à offrir des propositions

jusqu'à 15 % , en faites il faut être jusqu’à 15%. Et puis il y a certains ministères qui ont été exempté où leur contribution est 2 % puis encore ont va élaborer sur ça un peu plus.

- So 3 lines of actions that I wanted to cover today. First one is investment to expand the reach and the capabilities of the Coast Guard. So basically related to Bill C-2 and related to the security mandate of the Coast Guard. Responsibilities of the Coast Guard that will transition from the Minister of Fisheries to the Minister of National Defence. And lastly the Comprehensive Expenditure Review, where every department are asked to provide proposals of 15% reduction. While some of the departments are exempted to 2%. So they only have to provide proposals to 2%.
- Before I continue, maybe just a quick note on the culture, because that's something I did hear quite a bit.
- So a security mandate and moving to DND does not change the foundation of our DNA. Our motto remains the same. Safety first. Service always.
- Donc, peut-être juste une petite note sur la culture que je voulais met de l’avant parce que c’est une question qu'on a vu dans les médias ou de nos employés, mais c’est que le mandat de sécurité et le mouvement de la Garde côtière à la Defence nationale changent pas la fondation de notre DNA. En fait notre motto reste le même. La sécurité d’abord, la service continue.
- This by no means takes away from our commitment to marine safety and the protection of the environment. Quite frankly, we've been asked to preserve our current mandate.
- Cela ne change rien à notre engagement envers la sécurité maritime et la protection de l'environnement. Très franchement, on nous a demandé de préserver notre mandat actuel.
- I think the evolution of the safety culture to a security conscious or threat informed culture is an important distinction. And by threat, it's not threat to personnel, it's threat to the sovereignty of the country, it's threat to the economy. So it's a different mindset that we’ll evolve to over time.
- Ce que je voulais dire, c'est que l'évolution de notre culture de sécurité vers une sûreté est plus conscience sur l’impact de sûreté et puis d’être bien informé des menaces. Puis par menace, on n'entend pas une menace pour le personnel, mais ont parlent d’une menace envers le pays pour la souveraineté de l’économie, la paix et puis donc ce que je voulais ajouter c’est que la sécurité de nos gens ça demeure la priorité puis on va s’assurer que personnes fait faces a des menaces personnelles ou quoi ce soit.
- And how it may impact the safety of who we serve, that is very important. The threat, how they would impact the safety of who we serve, the Canadians and people that use our water, that is what we are talking about.

- Comment est-ce que ces menaces-là puisse affecter la sécurité, les gens qui utilisent nos eaux. That's what we're talking about.
- Moving to DND, I want to reassure everyone that we will be a special operating agency within DND as civilians and not military and not Navy.
- En ce qui concerne le passage au Défence Nationale, je tiens à rassurer tout le monde : nous serons une agence spéciale à l'intérieur de la Défence Nationale, comme une organisation civile et non militaires et non la Marine.
- And on the CER, I did mention 15% and 2% exemption for some department. So right now we are at DFO today, so our duty is to submit proposals for 15% and then once we go to DND then we'll see. But right now what we've been asked for is to provide proposals for 15%.
- Pour l'instant, nous sommes au MPO, et notre devoir est de soumettre des propositions pour le 15 %, puis une fois que nous serons à la Défence Nationale, nous verrons. Mais pour l'instant, on nous a demandé de fournir des propositions pour 15 %.
- We as public servant, we need to serve the government and its priorities, and this government clearly indicated that we have to put proposals to generate savings of up to 15%. While we cannot discuss advice to the ministers or the Prime Minister openly, I would welcome anyone who have some suggestions or areas where we could look at efficiencies or reductions to come forward and talk to your managers and then to your management team to bring them forward.

Mes, Marc (he, him / il, lui) (DFO/MPO)

- All right. Good morning, everybody. Hello, everyone. Bonjour tout le monde and good afternoon for those of our colleagues in in Atlantic region. I'm really glad that you're all here joining us
- You know, we really do appreciate the ongoing work that all of you are doing, particularly during this time of change and during the summertime and operations don't stop and we realize that, but at the same time we wanted to be able to come forth and bring you a bit of an update on where things are as the Commissioner has alluded to.
- Merci à tous d'être présents. Nous apprécions votre engagement et votre travail continue pendant cette période de changement.
- L'objectif de la réunion d'aujourd'hui est de fournir à chacun les dernières informations concernant les changements organisationnels à venir, afin que nous soyons tous alignés.
- You know, the one thing people say is that the one thing constant is, is change in government. And that's something we all live almost on a day-to-day basis.

- Change is an opportunity for all of us, but at the same time we realize and recognize that with change brings uncertainty and it's natural to have questions and and concerns and hopefully throughout this process we will be able to address some of that as we get more information as things evolve.
- Nous savons que le changement peut créer de l’incertitude, et il est normal d’avoir des questions et des préoccupations.
- We're committed to bringing information to all of the Coast Guard members from coast to coast to coast and to be able to provide feedback as we get it. But what we're trying to do is make sure that we're all on the same page.
- So, let's get started and kind of give you a bit of an update on some of these areas.
- Let's start off with the mandate that the Commissioner was referring to.
- In June of this year, the Minister of Public Safety tabled Bill C2, which is now known as the Strong Borders Bill.
- In Parliament, this is legislative changes for several departments, including Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, on proposed changes to the Oceans Act in relation to Coast Guard services.
- Right now within Coast Guard, we collect a lot of information. We collect a lot of information for the purposes of safety and that's within our current mandate. And we can share that information for safety purposes and we can share that with our partners for those purposes.
- We cannot share the information for security purposes, so the changes in the Oceans Act will allow us now to collect, analyze, receive and share information for security purposes.
- So now we can collect and share information for both safety and security.
- Les modifications législatives proposées à la Loi sur les Océans permettraient à la Garde côtière de recueillir, analyser, recevoir et partager des informations a des fins de sûreté, lorsque présentement nous pouvons seulement recueillir et partager des informations pour la sécurité.
- These legislative changes, of course, will now allow the government to leverage all of the Coast Guard's assets, all of our ships, all of our helicopters, all of our land-based sensors, all of our operational centers and every other asset that we have to be able to contribute to security and sovereignty.
- And this is for the broader benefit of the Government of Canada and for Canadians.
- Having that level of awareness of what's happening in our waters, be it the Arctic waters, on our coasts, but also in the Great Lakes and Saint Lawrence River. These are areas from a Government of Canada perspective that we want to ensure remain secure and that we have the ownership from a sovereignty perspective.

- Now, where are we in the Bill? The Bill is now currently working its way through parliament. It has to go through committee hearings in the fall. And if this bill does pass, it will give the Coast Guard these new legislative authorities to conduct security activities over and above the activities that we currently do right now and what we do on a day-to-day basis: search and rescue etc. None of the changes are going to change what we currently do. It's going to complement and add to those services.
- This is not about arming or militarizing the Coast Guard or seeking authorities for enforcement. Not at all. It's about doing something that many people think we're already doing, which is sharing information for the security and sovereignty of Canada.
- This is just giving us that legislative authority to now be able to do that and better inform our maritime domain awareness what's happening in our waters and to be able to share that information with our defence, security and intelligence partners.
- Coast Guard has most of its assets on the water. It has the largest number of assets on the water. Why not leverage that to benefit the broader Government of Canada?
- Le but n’est pas d’armer ou de militariser la garde côtière, ni de recevoir des nouveaux pouvoirs d’application de la loi. Le but c’est d’utiliser les informations que nous recueillons pour mieux informer ce qui se passe dans le domaine maritime, et de partager ces informations avec nos partenaires de défense, de sûreté, et d’intelligence.
- So, what does that mean from an investment perspective.
- With this expanded services for the Coast Guard, the Prime Minister has also included some investments that will expand our reaching capabilities of the Coast Guard, particularly in the remote Arctic, which of course, as the geopolitical environment that currently exists, is an area that is of particular interest to others, and it's important for Canada to be able to assert its sovereignty in that Arctic.
- This means that our maritime security program is going to grow. We are going to be able to have secure communication networks on our ships between land and those that are out at sea, acquiring new tools and new assets such as sensors onboard our ships as well as on land to help contribute to the security and sovereignty of Canada and to inform Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) for Defence, Security and Intelligence Partners.
- This is a Government of Canada effort of which Coast Guard is able to provide a significant contribution.
- This by no means takes away from our commitment for marine safety and the protection of the environment, our roles in ice breaking, our roles in search

and rescue, aids to navigation, marine communications. That is core to what we do. This is complementary. And it's really an opportunity for the Government of Canada to leverage the assets of the Canadian Coast Guard to further contribute to that understanding and sharing of information of the maritime domain for security purposes.

- And we all know that the political environment / the geopolitical environment is changing and it's important that we're able to help contribute to that protection of that environment from a Government of Canada perspective.
- So that's where we are from an investment perspective.
- The Commissioner also talked about the recent announcement by the Prime Minister that the responsibilities of the of the Coast Guard would transition from the Minister of Fisheries to the Minister of National Defence.
- Le bureau du premier ministre a annoncé que les responsabilités de la Garde côtière seront transférées de la ministre des Pêches au Ministre de la Defence nationale.
- This can feel like a really big change, especially for those who remember the transfer of the Coast Guard from Transport Canada to DFO 30 years ago. Some of us are still around. Our Commissioner was around during that time.
- This is a pretty significant change that we are now also going to undergo.
- The government has made this decision to reinforce the strong operational synergies between both the Canadian Coast Guard and the Department of National Defence to further strengthen our security and sovereignty as a whole.
- But it's really important that the Coast Guard will remain as an independent, civilian, special operating agency. We will not become a fourth line of service under the Canadian Armed Forces, but a separate operating agency - as we currently are - focused on our civilian mandate.
- We will not be militarized, and I think that is really important.
- La Garde côtière demeurera une agence civile et indépendante.
- This move is not about militarizing the Coast Guard or joining the Canadian Armed Forces. It's about bringing the synergies together between 2 organizations and leveraging that together.
- We're waiting for more information. That's as much information that we currently have. We are waiting for more information about what the transition will look like, and we will be engaging across the organization to get your feedback and support you with this big change.
- Until we know more, it’s important not to speculate.
- There's lots of rumours and people talk, but it's important to wait till we're able to provide you with the information once we receive it as the government

begins this transition process and we ultimately get the direction from government to make this transition.

- Nous attendons plus d’informations sur ce à quoi ressemblera la transition et nous consulterons toute l’organisation pour recueillir vos avis et vous accompagner dans ce grand changement.
- Jusqu’à ce que nous en sachions davantage, il est important de ne pas spéculer.
- What I can say is that our interactions to this point with the Department of National Defense have been very positive so far and that's encouraging. And that includes the discussions we're now having with our colleagues with Department of Fisheries. This is a big change for them as well and we have to recognize that and we will continue to work with both our colleagues on the Department of Fisheries side as well as DND as we kind of move this forward.
- There's going to be bumps in the road. We all know that. Change does bring that, but we're working really hard to minimize those bumps in the road.
- Now to do that, we're creating the Change Management and Integration Office that Katia is going to be leading.
- And we're going to be working very closely with the Department of Fisheries, of course, and with DND as we work on this transition. We have working groups and we have teams that are working on this and as we get that direction from government, we'll be able to provide you with some more information.
- Lastly, the Commissioner mentioning the Comprehensive Expenditure Review (CER)
- This has been broadly communicated, the Government has asked for all departments to come up with proposals that yield reductions/efficiencies of 15% of their operating budgets, and that includes the Coast Guard as part of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.
- Comme cela a été largement communiqué, le Gouvernement a demandé à tous les ministères de présenter des propositions permettant des réductions/efficacités de 15 % de leurs budgets de fonctionnement, ce qui inclut la garde côtière dans le cadre du ministère des Pêches et des Océans.
- Some Departments and agencies like DND, the CBSA, and the RCMP are subject to reductions/efficiencies of only 2% of their operating budgets but as we are not yet part of DND; we have to do the work and put proposals up to 15% on the table as requested by the Government.
- These proposals are due at the end of this month, at which time the government will determine, which proposals will go forward. As we get more information we will provide it to you.

- This can be a very stressful time and can generate anxiety. There are tools and resources that have been shared with your regions, to support employees during this transition.
- If you do have questions, work through your change of command. Talk to your supervisors, talk to your directors, talk to your Assistant Commissioners in the regions and they will help provide some support or greater clarity with the information that we currently have.
- But there's some things we just don't know yet and we can't provide that.
- But as soon as we get that information, we'll provide it.
- That's a lot of information to digest, you know, be it Bill C2 and the legislative changes for Coast Guard, to taking on a new service of security, expanding our capabilities and investments to support those security activities, the transition of Coast Guard to a new department and then of course expenditure review. That's a lot to take in. We understand that we wanted to be able to provide you at least what we know and where we are in this process.
- A we move forward, we will make sure that we engage and try to answer all of your questions.
- You know as we move forward, we're like you -- there are a lot of unknowns still and we'll work on this together.
- À mesure que ces différents éléments progressent, d'autres occasions se présenteront pour échanger et répondre à vos questions, et nous nous engageons à vous tenir informés au fur et à mesure que nous obtiendrons plus de clarté sur les décisions à venir
- So I think I'll stop there, Katia, and I'll let you wrap this up.

Jollez, Katia (she, her / elle, la) (DFO/MPO)

- OK. Thank you so much, Deputy Commissioner Mes and Commissioner for joining us today and providing these updates. Also, thank you to the event team for putting this together.
- I think we heard the message loud and clear. There's a lot going on and there's still things we don't know. There's going to be lots of opportunities in the future to engage and gather feedback and provide more information. We've recorded the session. It'll be shared by e-mail, as that was a lot of information to digest. I think we'll wrap up for now.
- Thank you so much everyone.