

**Update for Guild Members Regarding the Coast Guard's
Utilization of SVMOs on Cape-Class
Search and Rescue Lifeboats
February, 2026**

As members may be aware, and as can be found in the GSO update of September 2023 in the Newsroom, the Guild filed a policy grievance in 2023 asserting that the holders of Small Vessel Machinery Operator (SVMO) certificates have been acting as Ships' Officers and performing the duties of the Engineer position in the Guild bargaining unit at the following Canadian Coast Guard Lifeboat stations: Campbell River, Ganges, Victoria, Powell River, and French Creek, and needed to be paid acting pay.

The Guild and the Treasury Board have reached a resolution. The Employer has acknowledged that when an employee with an SVMO certificate is required to perform duties of an engineer on a 47-foot motor lifeboat, they will be compensated per the pay administration provisions of the Ships' Officers collective agreement.

The Guild has advocated strongly for long-term solutions to the shortage of Engineers with the Coast Guard. To address the importance of ensuring that the Coast Guard can fulfill its SAR mandate while also ensuring that the existing complement of 4th-class Engineers are not working continuously without any leave, the Employer intends to continue the ongoing filling of Engineering Officer positions by SVMOs, where no Engineers with 4th-class certificates are available. This arrangement strikes the balance of still giving priority to holders of a 4th-class certificate, where they are available, while also recognizing the reality of the ongoing shortage of Engineers.