



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Canada Marine Day act introduced in Parliament

OTTAWA -- The Chamber of Marine Commerce (CMC) today announced that the first piece of federal legislation to ever officially recognize a national marine day has now been introduced in the House of Commons.

Bill C-549, *An Act respecting a day to honour Canada's marine industry*, received First Reading in the House of Commons yesterday during the industry's celebration of Canada Marine Day at celebratory events in Gatineau, Québec. In introducing the bill, Mr. Mike Wallace, MP (Burlington, Ontario) rose in the House and said:

"Mr. Speaker, observance of a Canada marine day would honour Canada's marine industry past, present, and future. The marine industry holds immense prosperity for Canadians, especially in terms of transportation, jobs and recreational opportunities.

Canada is a marine superpower. The day would be incredibly important to the health of our economy. In many respects, the marine industry is the gateway to trade and the future of Canadian prosperity. Marine waterways form the primary line of trade with corridors that are linked to massive networks of rail, road and other transportation networks

The bill would honour the role of the marine industry in the past, today and, more important, in the future."

CMC President, Ray Johnston, congratulated Mr. Wallace on the historic occasion, noting "The marine industry greatly appreciates Mr. Wallace's efforts to have the Government of Canada officially pay tribute to an industry that provides so much and holds such promise in future prosperity for Canadians."

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About the [Chamber of Marine Commerce](http://www.cmc-ccm.com)

The Chamber of Marine Commerce (CMC) is an Ottawa-based association that represents more than 160 marine industry stakeholders including major Canadian and American shippers, ports, terminals and marine service providers, as well as domestic and international shipowners. The CMC represents the interests of its members by addressing government issues affecting marine transportation. Advocacy extends to both the federal and provincial levels of government and, when appropriate, to U.S. federal and state governments and agencies. The marine industry is vital to our prosperity by enabling efficient trade within North America and around the world. As the safest and most environmentally sound method of carrying bulk freight, the increased use of marine transportation offers opportunities to alleviate highway congestion, improve utilization of waterway capacity and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.