

Marine transport: major challenges

Do you know that the largest cargo volumes in Québec are carried by vessel traffic—almost twice those transported by truck and more than twice those expedited by train? In Québec, the marine industry already posts economic spinoffs exceeding an annual \$2.3 billion and generates close to 27 000 direct and indirect jobs.

Given the importance of marine transport, it is crucial to look out for its interests and development. Clearly, economic, political, regulatory, environmental and even social contexts sometimes slow down this continental seaway's development. SODES' role consists in supporting marine transport, which is faced with many challenges.

- **Despite its strategic importance in the economic development of both Québec and Canada, marine transport does not always receive the government attention needed. Increased government fees and regulatory obligations reduce the St. Lawrence's competitive advantages vis-à-vis other North American marine routes.**
- **People are misinformed about marine transport. Quebeckers, especially young people, are unaware of its environment and safety advantages, and the contribution this mode of transport makes to their daily lives.**

Marine transport on the St. Lawrence requires support for optimal development. SODES is involved in various ways to ensure it of its rightful place.

Targeting sustainable development

Marine transport already boasts better a environmental performance than its competitors. SODES is doing its utmost to inform the public and elected representatives of this mode's positive image. Improving this environmental performance still further requires endorsing the principles of sustainable navigation, defined as:

"Management of commercial and recreational navigation and quayside ship operations, integrating the objectives of economic, environmental and social sustainability and assuring, in the short term and for future generations, adequate protection of ecosystems, quality of life, and human health and safety, while permitting the development of navigation."¹

Because SODES sees itself as an initiator where the environment is concerned, it is focussing its efforts on improving marine transport's environmental performance. It initiated the Environment Committee, whose work led to the creation of Green Marine. Working with this group of marine industry associations, SODES prepared the *St. Lawrence and Great Lakes marine industry environment program*. Green Marine is now currently working to implement it. This program involves voluntary measures that the industry is taking in seven priority areas:

- Invading aquatic species
- Pollutant air emissions
- Greenhouse gases
- Environmental leadership
- Cargo residues
- Oily Waters
- Conflicts of use (ports and terminals)

SODES is very proud to be a partner and a founding member of Green Marine.

¹ Sustainable Navigation Strategy for the St. Lawrence

2011-2016 SODES Strategic plan

Through its extensive, diversified membership, SODES constitutes an impressive pool of volunteer experts dedicated to the St. Lawrence's cause and, as a result, is highly representative of the maritime community as a whole. SODES activities are guided by a strategic plan designed to protect and promote the St. Lawrence maritime community's economic interests in keeping with sustainable development imperatives. More precisely the strategic plan seeks to:

- **Develop and promote marine industry consensus-seeking and positioning**
- **Promote the marine industry with governmental relations**
- **Improve the image of marine industry by communications and awareness**

These goals concur with SODES' vision, which consists of making the St. Lawrence North America's most efficient marine axis and a cornerstone of the continental economy.

SODES, a key maritime community player

Sodes is a non-profit organization founded in 1985 and mandated to protect and promote the St. Lawrence's economic interests. It represents the St. Lawrence maritime community, which include all private and public sector players throughout Québec whose activities directly or indirectly impact on its economy. It is the body that transacts with governments on issues related to the St. Lawrence's economy and its development. More concretely, the following are currently SODES' priorities:

- Development of the St. Lawrence – Great Lakes trade corridor, considered to be the most important file SODES has worked on since its founding.
- Founding member and partner of Green Marine, designed to enhance the marine industry's environmental performance.
- Development of marine transport on the St. Lawrence by stressing the marine industry's economic and environmental advantages to the public.
- Representing the marine community's interest before government authorities, notably through its participation on the National Marine and Industrial Council and the Québec Marine Industry Forum.
- Defending its members interests in areas like Canadian Coast Guard cost recovery, regional issues and regulations.

SODES also organizes various events, like Québec Marine Day, the St. Lawrence Award and four luncheon meeting per year. Furthermore, it publishes different newsletters to keep its members informed of headway made on its files.



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Membership

SODES members are part of an influential network representing various members of the marine community: ports, shipowners, stevedores, terminal operators, sectorial associations as well as public and parapublic agencies involved in the River's economic development. SODES also represents marine lawyers, insurance brokers, forwarding agents and banks, in short, professionals involved to varying degrees in marine trading activities in Québec. The membership list included in this package shows the diversity and representativeness of our members.

Carriers

Canfornav
Canadian National
Canadian Pacific
Fednav Ltd.
Canada Steamship Lines
(C.S.L.)
Groupe Desgagnés
Ocean Group
Oceanex
McKeil Marine Limited.
NEAS Inc.

Marine Services and Equipment Suppliers

Aon Reed Stenhouse
Concept naval Experts
maritimes Inc.
Corporation of Lower St.
Lawrence Pilots
Corporation des pilotes du
Saint-Laurent central
CPCS
Delom Services
Eastern Canada Response
Corporation (ECRC)
Gaz Metro
Groupe Deric inc.
Langlois Kronström Desjardins
Lloyd's Register North America
Osborn & Lange
Pesca Environnement
PwC
Roche Ltd. Consulting Group
Stikeman Elliot
Techsol Marine

Elevators and Terminals

G3 Canada Limited
CanEst
Empire Stevedoring Co. Ltd.

Logistec Corporation
Montreal Gateway Terminals
Quebec Stevedoring
Somavrac

Shippers

Aluminerie Alouette
Arcelor Mittal Exploitation
Minière Canada
Rio Tinto Alcan
K+S Windsor Salt Ltd.
Valero

Government Departments and Agencies

Federal Government
Laurentian Pilotage Authority
Transport Canada

Provincial Government
Société des traversiers du
Québec
Transport Québec

Municipal and Regional Governments

Communauté métropolitaine de
Québec
Promotion Saguenay
City of Baie-Comeau
City of Contrecoeur
City of Gaspé
City of Matane
City of Port-Cartier
City of Sept-Îles
Escale Tadoussac Haute-Côte-
Nord/ Municipalité de
Tadoussac

Ports

Commission régional du port
de Gros-Cacouna
Montréal Port Authority

Port of Valleyfield
Québec Port Authority
Saguenay Port Authority
Sept-Îles Port Authority
Société des parcs industriels de
Sorel-Tracy
Société du parc industriel et
portuaire de Bécancour
Saint Lawrence Seaway
Development Corporation
The St. Lawrence Seaway
Management Corporation
Trois-Rivières Port Authority

Other organizations

Association québécoise des
transports
Chambre de commerce et
d'industrie de Québec
Innovation maritime
Institut maritime du Québec
Technopole Maritime
REFORMAR
Syndicat des débardeurs
The Canadian Merchant
Service Guild
The Seafarers' International
Union of Canada

Marine Industry Associations

Canadian Marine Pilots'
Association
Chamber of Shipping of British
Columbia
Green Marine
Human Resources Sectorial
Committee of the Maritime
Industry
Maritime Employers
Association
St. Lawrence Shipoperators