



ST. LAWRENCE  
ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT  
COUNCIL

## St. Lawrence EXPRESS

FEBRUARY 6, 2013

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

#### *SODES denounces research cutbacks*



Nicole Trépanier,  
President, SODES

This month, I would like to share my acute concern about the future of research in Québec.

In early December, when it released the Estimates, the Québec government announced significant cutbacks in Québec's research funds (Fonds de recherche du Québec - FRQ) in the coming year. Overall, budgets are expected to be slashed by \$31 million this fiscal year alone.

This situation worries SODES since it jeopardizes the survival of networks and groups like the Interuniversity Research Centre on Enterprise Networks, Logistics and Transportation (CIRRELT), with which many industry members have worked in recent years. Such groups of researchers also help train highly qualified personnel, from whom many marine sector enterprises benefit.

As we approach a meeting focussing on the future of research in Québec (scheduled for February 13), SODES is asking our members and the maritime community to join to overturn the government's decision.

You are invited (before February 13) to sign the [online petition](#) asking that FRQ funding be maintained (names can remain confidential).

Scientific research is essential for our society's development and contributes to its socio-economic growth. Don't be afraid to speak out!

The President,

## SODES' MEETINGS AND EVENTS

### **Mark it on your calendars!**

- February 21, 2013 Board meeting-Luncheon conference (Québec City)  
April 25, 2013 Board meeting (Montréal)  
June 12, 2013 Board meeting-AGM-Luncheon conference (Montréal)

### **Come hear the Minister of Transport speak on February 21 in Québec City**



*Sylvain Gaudreault, Minister of Transport and Minister of Municipal Affairs, Regions and Land Occupancy*

Our next guest speaker is Minister of Transport and Minister of Municipal Affairs, Regions and Land Occupancy Sylvain Gaudreault, who will talk about the MTQ's overall aims and projects.

The luncheon conference will take place at Hôtel Pur (Québec City) from 11:30 to 2:15. [Sign up](#) now!

#### **Seeking sponsors**

Interested in taking advantage of the visibility offered by this event? To show your interest, please complete the [sponsorship form online](#) (you can also get more information on our sponsorship program) or contact Communications Manager Catherine Houle at 418 648-4572, ext. 201.

*Note that the ticket price for non-members is now \$125. However, non-members buying an entire table will receive a \$15 discount per person.*

## SODES NEWS

### **SLGL trade corridor study update pending**



SODES is currently coordinating the update of the St. Lawrence – Great Lakes trade corridor study conducted in 2008.

The report will be released in the coming weeks...watch for it!

### **SODES has begun twittering...**



For those wishing to follow us on Twitter, you can now do so at <https://twitter.com/Sodesqc>. Twitter usage differs by user type. We will be using it to share news and links that attract our attention in our daily “watches” and to promote the marine industry still further.



**Reminder: @portquebec.ca addresses are no longer valid**



Because SODES recently changed Internet providers, our members' old e-mail addresses ending in “@portquebec.ca” are no longer valid. To reach us, you must now use the “@st-laurent.org” tag.

**SODES is hiring: Communications Manager**

Do you know a communications manager looking for an exciting job? SODES needs to fill this position in the very near future since our current Communications Manager will be leaving in the coming weeks. Feel free to circulate [this job offer](#) (in french) to your contacts.

**MTQ NEWS**

**Improving the Energy Efficiency of Bulk Carriers**

Over the past few years, Canada Steamship Lines (CSL), which transports dry bulk cargo on the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway System, has undertaken major work to improve the energy efficiency of its fleet.

In addition to replacing the Halifax ship, CSL implemented, last year, an improvement process including five projects that were subsidized under the Assistance Program for Improving Energy Efficiency in Road, Rail and Marine Transportation (PEET) of the ministère des Transports. Financial assistance of \$2.5 million dollars will be awarded to the company for projects assessed at \$5.1 million. This will help CSL reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by about 9,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per year. With the implementation of its improvement process, CSL is now a leader in Québec in terms of energy efficiency for marine transportation equipment.

**INDUSTRY NEWS**

**Cargo M, Montréal's new logistics cluster**



The new Montréal metropolitan logistics and transportation cluster (dubbed Cargo M) will be fully operational in summer 2013. Headed by Mathieu Charbonneau, former AQTr Assistant Executive Director, it will be administered by a Board of 17 directors (including SODES President Nicole Trépanier). Further info [here](#)

**New MTQ Minister's Office head**

Mario St-Laurent has been appointed Head of the Office of the Minister of Transport of Québec. Mr. St-Laurent has worked as Executive Director of the Association des propriétaires d'autobus du Québec for six years. SODES wishes him the best of luck in his new duties.



## ***Alouette and McKeil Marine renew their partnership***



Aluminerie Alouette and McKeil Marine have signed a three-year renewal on their partnership to use barges like the Alouette Spirit to carry ingots and pig ingots down the St. Lawrence and on the Great Lakes. [Read more](#)

## ***Major investment at the Port of Matane***

This modernization, estimated at \$11 million, is needed to renew ramps and docks required for the new ferry linking Matane to the North Shore. The STQ'S flagship, currently under construction in the Italian shipyard Fincantieri, will be bigger than the current Camille-Marcoux. [Read entire article](#) (in french)

## ***St. Lawrence Seaway maintenance dredging fees hike***

As of April 1, the unit fee rate applicable to ships transiting the St. Lawrence Seaway will increase 0.8%, from 4.49 to 4.52 cents per gross registered tonnage. More info on the [Statistics Canada website](#)

## **INDUSTRY PORTRAIT**

### ***A record-breaking year for the Port of Québec***



**PORT OF QUÉBEC**

On January 8, SODES was on hand as the review of the results of the Port of Québec's different activities in 2012 was released. In his speech, [Québec Port Authority \(QPA\)](#) President and CEO Mario Girard stated: "In 2012, the Port of Québec beat records for the amount of merchandise handled and the number of cruises.

In this regard, the Port of Québec was clearly the No. 1 St. Lawrence River port in 2012".

The QPA logged a record \$32.5 million tonnes of merchandise handled in 2012, up 12.5% in terms of tonnage from the previous year. This performance makes the Port of Québec the leading port on the St. Lawrence, in terms of tonnage handled, for a second consecutive year.

As for international cruises, the Port of Québec again broke its record, with 162,000 visitors in 2012, up 18% from 2010, its previous record-breaking year. The Port also hosted major events like the Cirque du Soleil, Image Mill, Transat Québec Saint-Malo, Rendez-vous naval de Québec and Bordeaux Wine Festival in Québec City.

The QPA and its terminal operator partners invested nearly \$53 million over the course of 2012 in different projects aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of port equipment and infrastructures.

Source: [A year of new records for the Port of Québec](#)

### ***To contact a staff member:***

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