

## INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH

### MÉLANIE LEBLANC – DIRECTOR, INSTITUT MARITIME DU QUÉBEC (IMQ)

*A graduate of the Institut maritime du Québec's Navigation program and a certified First Mate, Foreign-going / Master Near Coastal, Ms. Leblanc has been with the IMQ since 2008, first as an instructor then, as of 2012, as Assistant Director of Student Services.*

*Her recent duties included those of registrar and she was responsible for various student services, communications, promotion, recruitment and internships at sea. She maintained a close working relationship with the maritime industry both locally and internationally, as well as with other marine training centers and Transport Canada. Her background and experience will certainly be assets in her new role as director.*



**Ms. Leblanc, the IMQ is celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. If you were asked to highlight just one noteworthy achievement marking these 75 years, what would it be?**

Several key stages have marked the Institut maritime du Québec's history, but what I consider the most outstanding achievement is the fact that, despite political pressure over the years—especially in the 1960s and 1970s—the IMQ has stayed in Rimouski, thanks to people's commitment.

I don't think the IMQ would be as well-known and enjoy its current status if it had moved to a big city. In fact, in a big city, the IMQ would have lost its distinctiveness and its mission would have been severely diluted.

*"The IMQ's presence in Rimouski gives the city boundless international renown as well as a strong, unique identity propagated by elected representatives who recognize its full value."*

**As IMQ Director, what is your vision for the Institut over the next 10 years? Where would you like to take it?**

The IMQ must continue collaborating with Transport Canada and the marine industry to align training and the work world, making them meaningful to the younger generation. The marine sector is a traditional one, but we are facing far-reaching changes and challenges in finding new workers that require us to update the way we attract human resources, the training we offer and employment conditions.

More than ever, we need to train unlicensed seaman, officers and peripheral workers more globally and work with continuing education and marine-sector companies to offer customized, state-of-the-art training that meets employers' specific needs. We must also diversify our procedures, both in terms of training methods and geographic coverage.

« *In a context of human resources scarcity, we must also think about how to attract new students and officers from abroad to train them according to Canadian standards.* »

**On the occasion of the IMQ's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Fondation de l'IMQ is launching a major fundraising campaign that will run from 2019 to 2024.**

**Can you tell us how this campaign differs from past fundraising activities?**

This is the biggest campaign launched since the Fondation's creation. The campaign cabinet comprises influential individuals from our industry, showing our partners' willingness to rally around our human resources training mission. The Fondation has always supported the IMQ by offering a scholarship for academic excellence and scholarships to help students in financial need.

Our sector is currently in the throes of far-reaching mobilization by industry players and there is a desire to work together to promote careers, provide high-quality training and retain our human resources. The campaign that has just been launched broadens the action horizons, extending the vision to improving infrastructures, increasing innovation and stepping up research.

More than ever, marine-sector companies must make act jointly to ensure their future.

