



**The St. Lawrence
Seaway Management
Corporation**

**Corporation de Gestion
de la Voie Maritime
du Saint-Laurent**

SEAWAY 72-HOUR NOTICE TO STRIKE - UPDATE

OCTOBER 20, 2023

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cornwall, Ontario – On October 18th, UNIFOR served the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation with a notice to strike as of 00:01 October 22nd. This came during the most recent round of negotiations which started on October 17th, and these negotiations continue.

The SLSMC remains committed to the negotiation process, to upholding the principles of good faith bargaining and obtaining a solution adapted to the Seaway's reality as a not-for-profit corporation. Progress at the table continues to be slow as the high union wage demands could potentially lead to increasing tolls to a level that would make the waterway less competitive and eventually increase the price for the goods that transit through it.

The SLSMC has remained in regular contact with the marine industry and the necessary steps for an orderly shutdown are now underway, including providing cut-off times for vessels to safely clear the Seaway system prior to the strike time of 00:01 October 22, 2023. There are currently more than 80 vessels, of which 40 are ocean-going vessel, remaining in the Seaway.

Any shutdown, even a short one, will negatively impact the Seaway as we enter into the busy part of the navigation season. Given the Seaway's concern with regard to the transportation of grain, an application is being made to the Canada Industrial Relations Board seeking an order of the Board to confirm the application of section 87.7(3) of the Canada Labour Code related to the movement of grain during a strike, SLSMC will continue negotiating in an effort to reach a new agreement without disruption of service before the October 22nd deadline.

The St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation was established in 1998 as a not-for-profit corporation by the Government of Canada, Seaway users and other key stakeholders. In accordance with provisions of the Canada Marine Act, the Corporation manages and operates the Canadian assets of the St. Lawrence Seaway. Since the St. Lawrence Seaway's inception in 1959, more than 3 billion tonnes of cargo has been transported via the waterway.

For more information concerning the Seaway, please visit www.greatlakes-seaway.com.

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