

## Marine Transportation in Ontario

### **Issue:**

The Government of Ontario is beginning to understand the importance of marine transportation within the goods movement matrix. However, its current transportation policies do not encompass all modes of transportation in adequately addressing the deficit facing Ontario's transportation infrastructure.

### **Background:**

Ontario has a long coastline with a system of major and minor ports that is connected to road and rail. The impact of marine transportation on the GDP of Ontario is \$2.2 billion, second only to B.C., and \$500 million more than Quebec.

1 Both B.C. and Quebec have policies that recognize the importance of marine transportation as a part of the goods movement matrix and its importance to the economy as a whole. The Government of Ontario must continue to move forward with its marine transportation agenda. The transportation system is not sustainable. Across Canada, the cost of road and highway investment is expected to reach \$66 billion over the next 10 years;

2 while border-crossing delays are costing the Ontario economy \$5.25 billion a year.

3 Air pollution in 2005 cost Ontario \$7.8 billion.

4 In order to meet these challenges, a comprehensive transportation policy that encompasses all modes of transportation and places a greater emphasis on marine transportation is necessary.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Ontario Chamber of Commerce urges the Government of Ontario to:

1. Recognize that marine transportation has a role to play in a forward-looking transportation strategy that embraces the waterway for transportation of all commodities and particularly inter-modal traffic.
2. Promote the better utilization of marine transportation by encouraging the development and implementation of innovative marine services.

### **REFERENCES:**

- 1 Marine Industry Benefits Study, Economic Impact of the Canadian Marine Transportation Industry, Executive Summary," LECG, Page 10. 2004.
- 2 "\$66 billion for roads," The Toronto Star, February 16, 2005.
- 3 "Cost of Border Delays in Ontario," OCC Borders and Trade Development Committee, page 8. 2004.
- 4 The Illness Costs of Air Pollution, Summary Report" Ontario Medical Association, page 7. 2005.
5. Work with the federal government to remove obstacles to the increased use of marine transportation through a review of regulations.
6. Work towards implementing a regime that does not favour one transportation mode over another.