



PRESS RELEASE

Confirmation of \$5.9M in Aid from the Government of Canada to Implement the On Course for 2020 Plan

Trois-Rivières, July 09, 2009 - The Trois-Rivières Port Authority welcomes with great satisfaction a contribution of \$5.9M from the Government of Canada, which completes the critical funding required to start phase 1 of *On Course for 2020*, the modernization plan put forward by the Port of Trois-Rivières. This funding announcement was made today by Mr. Christian Paradis, Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada. This contribution is part of the *Infrastructure Stimulus Fund*, which is aimed at propping up the economy in the short term. This program targets projects that would not have gone forward without the help of the Canadian Government and whose level of readiness allows for their completion by March 2011. Moreover, the project's relevance must be clearly demonstrated and it must get complementary funding from other levels of government or developers. The TRPA projects meet all these criteria.

"The infrastructure modernization and development plan will be carried out between 2009 and 2020 and its implementation will require a total investment of \$146 million", stated Mr. Pierre Ducharme, Chairman of the Board of the TRPA. The work planned in 2009-2010, estimated at \$14,8 million, will improve the city-port interface, reduce the environmental impact of port activities and increase the port's operational efficiency and competitiveness. "The projects that will be undertaken include laying out the port's perimeter and adding new access roadways, so that port activities can fit more harmoniously within an urban setting. We're also planning to expand our outside storage space while improving our inside storage. We will also add new rail tracks which, in addition to increasing our rail capacity, will facilitate car handling. Overall, port capacity will go up 22%", said Mr. Gaétan Boivin, President and CEO of the TRPA.

"In cooperation with port users, we are committed to reducing the environmental impact of port activities by adding dust collectors, developing green spaces, providing better control of heavy traffic and lowering energy consumption. Lastly, the Government of Canada's contribution will allow the TRPA, in conjunction with the City of Trois-Rivières, to develop a pathway along hangar 1 to connect Harbourfront Park with the "Trois-Rivières sur Saint-Laurent" project " added Mr. Boivin.

"In accordance with our plan *On Course for 2020*, completion of all these projects was predicated on obtaining public financing in addition to the TRPA's share", noted Mr. Pierre Ducharme, Chairman of the Board of the TRPA. Today's announcement comes on top of the \$2M announced recently by the Government of Québec. The remainder of the funding, \$6.9M, will come from the TRPA's own funds. "It should be stressed that without this contribution, we could not complete the work planned for 2009-2010. I join all members of the Port of Trois-Rivières and the regional communities in thanking Mr. Paradis and his team for their support and confidence in this important regional project", added Mr. Pierre Ducharme.

The investments made by the TRPA in 2009-2010 will generate direct and indirect spinoffs resulting in a \$7.6 million (\$9.5 million with induced effects) in added value to the Canadian economy, the creation of 102 jobs (133 jobs when induced effects are included) and \$1.9 million in tax revenues for the Governments of Québec and Canada (\$2.4 million when induced effects are included).

"These projects are welcome news in the region. We're embarking on major new developments that will create great opportunities for our businesses. In addition, the transformation of our current port into one that meets the needs of tomorrow will facilitate the emergence of new national and international markets and will bolster short-sea shipping. In this gloomy economic climate, the Port of Trois-Rivières will help create much needed jobs in our region and in Québec", concluded Mr. Ducharme.

One of the 18 Canadian Port Authorities created since 1999, the Port of Trois-Rivières has been active for over a century, offering a wide range of facilities and services year round to the maritime industry. It is a major player in economic development at the regional, national and international levels. For more information, visit www.porttr.com

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