



PRESIDENT'S WEEK IN REVIEW

August 12 - 18, 2019

Hello all,

Last week kicked off with a Transport Canada led conference call about the introduction of Temporary Foreign Workers into the Canadian Marine Industry. On this call, we heard that the use of Section 89 of the Canada Shipping Act has been authorized by the Minister of Transportation. For those unfamiliar, Section 89 states:

Acceptance of foreign certificates

- **89 (1)** If the government of a foreign state has entered into a reciprocal arrangement with the Government of Canada to accept certificates of competency issued under this Part in lieu of certificates of competency of that state and if the Minister is satisfied that the requirements under the laws of the foreign state for a certificate of competency meet or exceed the requirements under this Act, the Minister may direct, subject to any conditions that the Minister specifies, that the foreign certificate may be accepted in lieu of a certificate of competency issued under this Part.

We also heard that France and the UK will be approved reciprocal partners sometime late summer or early fall, and that this is the first step toward “white listing” other nations, which may include countries like the Ukraine, Panama, and Philippines. When asked if any employers had completed a Labour Market Impact Analysis, Transport Canada said they were not aware of any and the employer representatives on the call remained silent – this suggests that no employer has taken the necessary steps to engage this process yet.

Our Bargaining Conference Planning Committee met last week and reviewed some important information, including some logistics issues that came to light. Expect an announcement about some important changes to Bargaining Conference dates soon.

Next week: The retirement of a long term staff member; a strategy meeting to evaluate how we should approach the introduction of Temporary Foreign Workers; a debrief meeting with Point Blank Creative; catching up with LRO Lori Horvat.

Thanks for reading, and I hope to see you soon!

In Solidarity,

BC FERRY & MARINE WORKERS' UNION

Brother Graeme Johnston
Provincial President