

The Canadian Maritime Law Association



L'Association Canadienne de Droit Maritime

Website: www.cmla.org

P. Jeremy Bolger, President

Borden Ladner Gervais LLP
1000 de la Gauchetière Street West, Suite 900
Montreal, QC H3B 5H4
Tel: 514-954-3119 Fax: 514-954-1905
E-mail: jbolger@blqcanada.com

Robert C. Wilkins, Secretary-Treasurer

Borden Ladner Gervais LLP
1000 de la Gauchetière Street West, Suite 900
Montreal, QC H3B 5H4
Tel: (514) 954-3184 Fax: (514) 954-1905
E-mail: rwilkins@blqcanada.com

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

To the Directors of the Association:

This will serve as my report as President since the last directors meeting in October 2009.

I had occasion to speak to Justice Gauthier on the subject of dues assessed by the Comité Maritime International ("CMI") upon the various national associations that are members of CMI. It will be recalled that CMI has modified its assessment methodology by creating certain categories, but it was unclear as to which criteria were applied to determine which countries fell into each category. It was initially understood that this was based on a perceived "means" basis, but Justice Gauthier assured me that in fact this is not the case. She did explain that CMI has been doing everything it can think of to reduce its own costs, including scheduling fewer executive and other meetings, conducting as many such meetings as possible by either telephone conference call or video conference, financial support for travel is limited to economy class only and so forth. As for the categorization of assessments, she explained that it was a most difficult and arduous task and the CMI Executive is prepared to recognize that it may not be perfect and indeed may have to be modified somewhat in the future, but members of the Executive exercised their best efforts to satisfy the demands and concerns of all member associations to the extent possible. Examples she gave were that many associations have much smaller memberships than does Canada and larger associations such as the MLAUS is faced with a rapidly declining membership in relative terms due to a lack of admiralty work nationally and a decline in revenue such that a US law firms and member lawyers are faced with budget restrictions.

It was agreed that if there were any specific queries that CMLA wishes to put to CMI they can be addressed either to Karl-Johann Gombrii, Justice Gauthier or Nigel Frawley and they will do their best to provide CMLA with detailed and satisfactory responses. I was invited in early November to and indeed did address members of the Canadian Board of Marine Underwriters at their Annual General Meeting at the Royal York Hotel on December 1, 2009 on the subject of

recent amendments to both Federal and Provincial legislation relating to the regulation of insurance companies.

I accepted an invitation as President of the CMLA to represent our association as a head table guest at the Annual Dinner of the Grunt Club Inc. held at the Bonaventure Hilton Hotel in Montreal on December 4, 2009.

Most recently I accepted an invitation and will represent CMLA as a head table guest at the Annual Dinner of The Marine Club at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto on January 15, 2010.

Since our last meeting I held several telephone conversations with our National Vice-president, Chris Giaschi, and Past President Will Moreira with respect to arrangements for our Annual General Meeting in Halifax in June 2010. A more detailed report will follow in this respect.

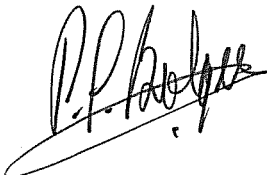
I have also been in contact with Jerry Rysanek at Transport Canada with respect to the annual meeting of CMLA and representatives of Transport Canada, Environment Canada and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans in Ottawa on April 8, 2010. As this stage topics to be addressed and the identity of CMLA members as participants are to be agreed.

I have also been in touch with Justice Sean Harrington of the Federal Court with regard to the idea of scheduling a Federal Court Judges' Seminar. As yet a date and location has not been identified. I am to meet with Justice Harrington in Montreal on this subject on Wednesday January 20th next.

In consultation with our national Vice-president changes either have been made or proposed and discussed with regard to chairpersons of several CMLA committees. These include (which I propose be identified as) the Finance and Investment Committee, the HNS Committee and one or two others which remain to be finalized. It is my firm belief that committee chairpersons should be changed occasionally to ensure enthusiasm, generate more interest and encourage younger members of CMLA to become actively involved.

Finally, it is my intention to correspond with Mr. Tim Heney, the current president of the Association of Canadian Port Authorities ("ACPA") to propose that his association become a constituent member of CMLA. This suggestion was advanced by our Secretary-treasurer Robert Wilkins, and I hope to have a letter out to Mr. Heney, with a copy to the ACPA's general manager, Gary Leroux, before the end of January.

Respectfully submitted,



P. Jeremy Bolger
President