



Shipping Federation Annual Conference 2024

Our Annual Conference, entitled “Supply Chain Sea Change – Navigating Today’s Economic and Geo-Political Realities,” was a resounding success! We would like to thank everyone who came out to the Mount Royal Centre on May 7th for the dynamic exchanges, thought-provoking questions, and insights on how the shipping industry can adapt to our ever-changing environment. We are excited for what the future holds for our evolving industry.

Julie Gascon from the Montreal Port Authority opened up the conference with an outlook from the port’s perspective and a call for industry to band together to build resiliency – a theme which ran throughout the conference. We then had the pleasure of hearing from Stephen Tapp from the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, Joe Kramek from the World Shipping Council, and Frank Mortensen from Fednav Limited as they shared their industry forecasts from a macroeconomic, liner shipping, and bulk carrier perspective respectively to close out our morning session.

For our keynote luncheon address, Former Minister of Justice and Attorney General Jody Wilson-Raybould delivered a powerful and inspiring speech on the meaning of “True Reconciliation” between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. This was followed by a captivating presentation by Steve Bonspiel and the Sharing Our Stories team at the start of the afternoon session, in which they detailed their work in preserving Indigenous culture in Kahnawake on the edge of the St. Lawrence Seaway. Both of these presentations called attendees to think critically about their roles in furthering reconciliation, both as individuals and as an industry.

In the afternoon session, attendees were treated to individual presentations from Mark Hemmes from Quorum Corporation, Sean Pierce from Logistec Corporation, Jean-Jacques Ruest from FSA University Laval (and former CEO of CN Rail), and Peter Xotta from the Vancouver-Fraser Port Authority, after which the speakers all reconvened for a panel discussion moderated by the Shipping Federation’s Kaity Arsoniadis. Topics discussed ranged from revisiting cabotage laws to recommendations to the National Supply Chain Office, with a chance for attendees to ask questions directly to the panelists as well.

Once again, the Shipping Federation extends its sincere thanks to all attendees, speakers, and sponsors for their vital contributions to the success of this conference. We look forward to seeing everyone again next year!

