

commodities exempt from regulation and streamlining of administrative members.

### Marine

The Government proposes to revise the Shipping Conference Exemption Act which allows ocean-going marine carriers to act together to set common rates and limit capacity. These conferences consist of groups of marine carriers providing services between specific ports.

As it is not feasible to eliminate the conference system, the Government will regulate conference operations to produce the greatest benefit to shippers. Shippers will be permitted to enter into confidential negotiated service contracts. Legislation will clearly prohibit predatory conduct by shipping conferences.

### New Regulatory Agency

It is the Government's view that the changing environment of regulatory administration, coupled with the determination to reduce government interference in the marketplace, requires the establishment of a new Regulatory Agency as a successor to the Canadian Transport Commission [CTC].

The organizational structure of the new national transportation authority will differ from the CTC, reflecting its reduced role due to lessened economic regulation.

The Minister of Transport will be empowered to issue binding policy directives to the agency. In cases of disagreement between the agency and interested parties, a number of dispute-resolving procedures, including mediation and final-offer arbitration will be available to settle disputes."

### Conclusion

Although it is difficult to say how some of the above described proposals will evolve in final legislation, it is very important to note that an environment is being created in which new transportation service options will emerge. Whatever new options do arise however, shippers in British Columbia, Alberta and Yukon wishing to export to the Western United States, Hawaii and Alaska need to be aware of alternatives that are currently available. The purpose of the ensuing subsections is to point out the relative advantages and disadvantages of alternative transportation arrangements in terms of their individual characteristics. The current status of the modes and sensible practices to keep in mind when using any of them are also highlighted to assist you in making the right choice.