

## PREFACE

The Exporters Coalition on Canadian Maritime Policy was organized in 1984 out of a concern that Canada's international trade interest had to be well understood and addressed in the consideration of maritime shipping policies.

Because of mounting evidence of shipping disruptions in a number of Canadian trades with the developing world, the Coalition is organizing this series of seminars amongst importers and exporters across Canada to develop trade solutions to these transport related problems.

Regional input will be coordinated and presented at a final conference to be held in Ottawa June 4, 1987.

The Minister of International Trade has agreed to assist through co-sponsorship of the seminar series and conference which has the objective of developing industry preferences for Ministers to consider on the most appropriate means which the Canadian government might adopt in the light of these changing circumstances.

The following background notes outline the scope of the problems to be discussed in a series of workshops at each seminar. Workshop chairmen will encourage participants to identify and discuss the key issues which emerge from review of the various discriminatory measures which are being encountered by Canadians in international trade.

Possible approaches will be discussed, and the implications will be reviewed for present Canadian trade and transport policies. Workshop chairmen will relay the consensus recommendations of the five regional trade seminars to the final conference session in Ottawa where other interested participants including national exporters, importers and carriers will discuss their findings and adopt national recommendations for ministerial consideration.