



news release

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CANADIAN CONFIRMED AS SECRETARY-GENERAL
OF INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, and the Minister of Transport, the Honourable Benoit Bouchard, today welcomed the confirmation of the election of William A. O'Neil as Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

"As a major trading nation with the world's longest coastline, Canada has a particularly strong interest in the role and activities of the IMO," Mr. Clark said. "We fully support the Organization's goals of safer oceans and cleaner seas and are delighted that a Canadian of Mr. O'Neil's calibre has been confirmed in this key position."

The IMO is a United Nations specialized agency whose main objective is to facilitate co-operation among governments on technical matters affecting international shipping. Mr. O'Neil was elected earlier this year by the IMO Council, representing 32 nations with major or special interests in international shipping, and his candidacy was confirmed by the Organization's 16th Assembly in London, U.K.

Mr. Bouchard noted that Mr. O'Neil's qualifications would enhance the IMO's reputation as a soundly-managed, efficient United Nations agency. "Mr. O'Neil's experience as President of the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority and as a former head of the Canadian Coast Guard make him an ideal choice for a position so important to a maritime nation like ours."

Canada was an original charter member of the IMO and has fully participated in all its activities since its inception in 1958.

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Mr. O'Neil was born in Ottawa and is married with three children. His London-based appointment begins January 1, 1990.

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