



Administration
portuaire de Montréal
Au cœur du commerce

Press release
For immediate release

THE PORT OF MONTREAL WELCOMES THE FIRST OCEAN-GOING VESSEL OF 2009

MONTREAL, Quebec, January 1, 2009– Mr. Patrice M. Pelletier, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Montreal Port Authority (MPA), welcomed Thursday morning Captain M. H. Rossiter, Master of the Maersk Patras, and his crew. By crossing the Port of Montreal's downstream limits at Sorel at 0:03, the Maersk Patras became the first ocean-going vessel to reach the Port of Montreal without a stopover in 2009.

During a brief ceremony held aboard the ship, Mr. Pelletier congratulated the whole crew and toasted the future of merchant shipping and a new year of commercial navigation to the Port of Montreal. "The awarding of the Gold-Headed Cane has a very significant importance for the Port of Montreal, as it highlights that since 1964, our Port stays open all year round. This reality, along with the fact that Montreal offers the shortest route between European ports and the Midwest, and that the Port is directly linked to two national railway companies, allowed us this year to substantially increase the number of containers handled at the Port and to contribute even more to the prosperity of the Greater Montreal region, Quebec and Canada", stated Mr. Pelletier.

Flying the United Kingdom flag, the Maersk Patras is a container ship operated by the Maersk shipping line, represented in Montreal by the Robert Reford agency. The Maersk Patras left the Port of Rotterdam in the Netherlands on December 23, and docked this morning in Montreal at Cast Terminal the operated by Montreal Gateway terminal.

During an official ceremony on Monday, January 5th, Captain Rossiter will receive the Gold-Headed Cane, a prize awarded each year to the captain of the first ocean-going vessel to reach the Port of Montreal without a stopover.



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About the Montreal Port Authority

The Montreal Port Authority (MPA) operates the world's largest inland port. It is a leader among container ports, handling 26 million tonnes of cargo annually. In 2007, the Port of Montreal handled a total of 1,363,021 container TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent unit). The MPA operates its own rail network, providing direct access to berths, and is linked to two major railways and a highway system. It also operates a grain terminal and a marine passenger terminal. All other terminals are operated by private stevedoring firms. Through its activities, the Port of Montreal generates 18,200 jobs and \$1.5 billion in economic spin-offs.

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