

INTRODUCING

Marine Month

I N C  N A D A

2025

Presented by:



Canadian
Coast Guard

Garde côtière
canadienne



Introduction

Canadian Geographic Education presents Marine Month in Canada

Canada is a **water-rich** country.



We have the **longest coastline** of any country in the world, at roughly **243,000 km**.



Approximately **20 per cent** of the world's surface **freshwater** can be found in over two million lakes spread across Canada, as well as in groundwater, ice, and snow.

20%



And Canadian rivers discharge close to **9 per cent** of the world's renewable water supply.

We are fortunate to have access to so much water on which we can live, play and work. So much water also means Canada boasts a diversity of marine industries which represent a source of economic growth, job creation, and innovation. Speaking of jobs and innovation, did you know that most young people in Canada have a generally positive impression of marine employment, believing it can offer interesting and fulfilling work, and opportunities to contribute to positive environmental change, but have also never heard anything about its wide variety of careers?

That's what inspired **Marine Month in Canada**.

Over the next 10 years, 43 per cent of the current marine workforce is expected to retire.

The Canadian marine sector will need to hire 19,000 workers on board vessels, and many more people in ports, shipyards and other shore-based operations, to keep up with industry demand — workers with interests and skills in navigation, engineering, the environment, technology, security, logistics, professional services, tourism and trades. There will also be a wide variety of opportunities in ports, shipyards and other shore-based operations.

There are so many opportunities on the horizon, and today's youth deserve to know about them. To this end, **Canadian Geographic Education** has joined forces with the Canadian Marine Careers Foundation and their **Imagine Marine** campaign to share **Marine Month in Canada** — during which the month of October is dedicated to marine education, awareness and opportunity.

The goal is to connect youth with experts in marine industries from across the country to break down barriers and showcase opportunities for **anyone** interested in the possibility of a future in the marine sector. And we plan on having quite a bit of fun along the way.

We hope that our series of live virtual presentations from experts in the field (a.k.a. at ports, on decks and in simulators!) aimed at Grades 5-12 provide a fun and inspirational opportunity for you and your students to learn about marine careers. We have also included curriculum-based activities demonstrating how the marine sector connects to science, math, communications, the environment and economics.

If you have any questions along the way, you can reach us at info@cangeoeducation.ca.

— **The Canadian Geographic Education Team**

Introduction

A Message from the Executive Director of the Canadian Marine Careers Foundation

Thank you for participating in **Marine Month in Canada**. We are excited to take you on a voyage across our country to learn about marine transportation and the many ways our sector impacts your daily lives.

Along the way, we are going to ask you to “drop anchor” so we can introduce you to the talented individuals who work onboard ships, ferries and tugs, in ports, harbours and lock systems, in shipyards and in offices.

The **Canadian Marine Careers Foundation** is on a mission to teach young Canadians through its **Imagine Marine** program about the adventurous and meaningful work that comes with a marine career. Whether you are interested in sailing the seas, protecting the environment, keeping people safe, running a port, building a boat, fixing an engine, developing technology, being a lawyer or running your own business – there’s a place for you.

Marine employs more than 100,000 skilled workers and professionals across Canada – but 43 per cent of the workforce is expected to retire in the next 10 years. That means we will have thousands of very important jobs to fill in the coming years.

Canada’s extensive 243,000 kilometres of coastline (the longest of any country in the world!) and many lakes and rivers mean that marine transportation has a long history of shaping our country and continues to have a huge impact today on the way we live, work and play!

If you live near the water, you may have seen the cargo ships, tugs and barges, ferries, cruise and tour boats that carry goods, commuters and/or tourists. Maybe, you have even visited your nearby port or marina. For many islands or remote Arctic communities – marine transportation is often the only connection to supplies, emergency services and the mainland!

But even if you are from a land-locked location, marine services impact your life every day. Most of everything you see in your classroom, your home or even what you had for dinner – has likely travelled on a ship at some point. And many of our businesses, factories and farmers rely on vessels to deliver their raw materials or take their products to cities in Canada as well as countries around the world.

With such a big role to play, the marine sector also has a responsibility to make sure we take care of the water and air we operate in; and that we protect the people and wildlife around us.

The federal government, through its different departments, sets rules and regulations, ensures that vessels are inspected for safety, tests seafarers to ensure they are properly trained, and helps direct traffic on our waterways, among many other important roles. Both the private and public sector also work together to develop new technologies and practices to improve training and safety, reduce carbon emissions and pollutants, and protect marine ecosystems and wildlife.

Through the Marine Month in Canada program, you will get to see real life examples of how marine transportation connects to the geography, math, science and engineering lessons you learn every day in the classroom.

Many thanks to our partners — the Canadian Coast Guard, the Royal Canadian Navy, Canada Steamship Lines, Algoma Central Corporation, the Montreal Port Authority, and British Columbia Coast Pilots — for bringing marine transportation to life.

We invite you to join us for interactive live virtual presentations from these six organisations all across Canada to get the inside scoop and ask whatever questions you want! The CMCF also welcomes teachers and students to reach out directly to us following the presentations at info@imagine-marine.ca to learn more about our activities and ways we can connect you to the marine sector.

— **Julia Fields, Executive Director, Canadian Marine Careers Foundation**