



**Mr. Louis Martel, President and Chief Executive Office,  
CSL Group  
Remarks for 63rd Opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway  
Monday, 22 March 2021, St. Lambert Lock, Montréal, Canada**

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Thank you Terry – and thank you Minister Alghabra, Secretary of Transportation Buttigieg, Ministre Rouleau and distinguished guests for taking the time this morning to share this important annual event with us.

C'est avec énormément de fierté que CSL a l'honneur de déclencher la nouvelle saison de navigation avec notre navire auto-déchargeur de classe Trillium, le Baie St. Paul. Il y a neuf ans déjà que le Baie St. Paul marqua le début d'une nouvelle ère de navires plus verts et performants dans les Grands Lacs lorsqu'il a ouvert la voie maritime en 2013.

And so here we are, almost 10 years after we welcomed this first in a series of smarter and more responsible ships that now sail and operate along the St. Lawrence Seaway. The new technologies built into the design of Baie St. Paul and her sister ships helped launch a transformation in Great Lakes shipping that is making it safer for our crews to navigate and healthier for the environments and communities in which we operate.

The pace of transformation and digitalization we are witnessing in shipping today is a game-changer, and at CSL, we are fully committed to modernizing and investing in the long-term viability and success of our sector. Marine transportation continues to be the most efficient, reliable and eco-responsible choice for shipping large cargos, and investments made today in green technologies will have positive impacts for generations to come.

CSL has aligned with Canada's goals under the Paris Climate Agreement with our target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 35% below 2005 levels by 2030.

To reach this ambitious objective, we're taking concrete actions in three ways:

We're building more efficient ships.

We're investing in R&D and innovation.

And we're exploring and testing new technologies, fuels and digital solutions.

Au printemps 2022, nous espérons vous revoir tous lorsque nous célébrerons l'arrivée de notre nouveau navire diesel-électrique de pointe de 26 000 tonnes, qui a été spécialement conçu pour notre client Sel Windsor afin de desservir sa Mines Seleine, située dans l'écosystème marin sensible des Îles-de-la-Madeleine.

Ce nouveau navire, qui sera doté de technologies environnementales de pointe, apportera une solution de transport maritime sécuritaire, fiable et durable, tout en assurant des livraisons régulières et ponctuelles de sel de déglacage pour garder nos routes sécuritaires durant la saison hivernale dans l'est du Canada. Je voudrais par ailleurs remercier le ministère des Transports du Québec pour sa contribution financière dans le cadre du Programme d'amélioration de l'efficacité des transports maritimes, aériens et ferroviaires.

As we aim to find solutions to reduce our carbon footprint, we are proud to announce today that CSL will be testing second generation biodiesel on half of our fleet over the course of the 2021 navigation season.

These tests are a follow up to the successful trials of B100 biodiesel fuel on the main engines of two CSL ships last year.

Replacing fossil fuel with biodiesel on vessels requires no modification of existing equipment and provides a viable carbon neutral fuel source over its lifecycle. This is what makes biofuels a very attractive option to reduce our environmental footprint.

If we don't try, we don't progress – and we are very excited about testing the waters with biofuels and other solutions that offer the potential to contribute to cleaner air and waterways.

I would like to thank our customers, who every day inspire us to seek ways to improve our operations and services. We are immensely grateful for your confidence.

I would also like to underscore the important contribution this past year of CSL's outstanding crews and all Great Lakes seafarers. They are the backbone of our industry and have shown immense fortitude and resilience in the face of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

À la barre du Baie St. Paul aujourd'hui nous avons le capitaine Serge Chevrier, appuyé par la première officière Lise Portelance. Dans la salle de machines, nous avons le chef mécanicien Benoit Thérout, appuyé par le second mécanicien, Serge Berzeau.

We wish safety and health to the crew of the Baie St. Paul and all Great Lakes seafarers as they begin the 2021 navigation season – and we wish a productive and incident-free season to everyone operating and working in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway.

Merci et bonne saison de navigation à tous !