

**The Canada Shipping Act** (RSC 1970, c.S-9), is the most significant statute dealing with shipping. Other legislative measures include the Pilotage Act, the Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act and the Navigable Waters Protection Act. Under the Canada Shipping Act, the Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act and their amendments, the federal government has complete responsibility for regulating shipping in Canadian-controlled waters.

### Shipping

15.4.1

Except for the coasting trade, all Canadian waterways, including canals, lakes and rivers, are open on equal terms to all countries, and Canadian ships must compete with foreign flag ships.

The carriage of goods and persons from one Canadian port to another is commonly known as the coasting trade. In the region from Havre-Saint-Pierre on the St. Lawrence River upstream to the head of the Great Lakes it is restricted to ships registered in Canada. Elsewhere in Canada the coasting trade is restricted to ships registered and owned in a Commonwealth country.

**Canadian registry.** Part I of the Canada Shipping Act sets out the sizes, types and ownership of vessels which must be registered. As at December 31, 1978, there were 31,068 ships constituting 4,639,705 gross registered tons (equivalent to 13 138 183 cubic metres) in the Canadian registry. This was a decrease of 525 ships since 1976.

**Shipping traffic.** Table 15.22 shows the number and tonnage of all vessels entering Canadian customs and non-customs ports, except those of less than 15 net registered tons (equivalent to 42 m<sup>3</sup>), Canadian naval vessels and fishing vessels. A registered ton is an internationally recognized measure used to indicate the capacity of space within the hull, and the enclosed spaces above the deck of a vessel.

Freight movement through large ports includes cargoes for or from foreign countries and cargoes loaded and unloaded in the coasting trade between Canadian ports. Table 15.23 presents data by province on these freight movements. In 1978 a total of 300 million tonnes were loaded and unloaded at the principal Canadian ports, compared with 295 million tonnes in 1977. Many ports also have in-transit movement of vessels that pass through harbours without loading or unloading or move from one point to another within a harbour.

Shipping statistics, which cover traffic in and out of both customs and non-customs ports, do not include freight in transit or freight moved from one point to another within the harbour. Table 15.24 shows the principal commodities loaded and unloaded in international and coastal shipping at 20 ports handling large cargo volumes in 1977 and 1978. These ports handled 79.3% of Canada's international shipping in 1978 (82.9% in 1977) and 62.4% (65.3%) of the coasting trade. The specific commodities shown are those transported in volume, mainly in bulk.

### Ports and harbours

15.4.2

Canada has 25 large deep-water ports and about 650 smaller ports and multi-purpose government wharves on the East and West coasts, along the St. Lawrence Seaway and Great Lakes, in the Arctic, and on interior lakes and rivers.

Administration of Canadian ports is generally under Transport Canada's Canadian Marine Transportation Administration (CMTA). Canada's harbours are subdivided into National Harbours Board ports, harbour commission ports, public harbours and government wharves. About 2,000 fishing harbours and facilities for recreational boating are administered by the fisheries and oceans department or the environment department.

The National Harbours Board, a Crown corporation, is responsible for administering the grain elevators at Prescott and Port Colborne, Ont. and port facilities such as wharves and piers, transit sheds and grain elevators at the harbours of St. John's, Nfld.; Halifax, NS; Saint John and Belledune, NB; Sept-Îles, Chicoutimi, Baie-des-Ha! Ha!, Quebec, Trois-Rivières and Montreal, Que.; Churchill, Man.; and Vancouver and Prince Rupert, BC. The number of vessels and the tonnage handled at these facilities in 1977 and 1978 are reported in Table 15.25.