Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, 2009 (Hong Kong Convention)

**PLAIN LANGUAGE SUMMARY**

Ship recycling is recognised as the most environmentally sound method to dispose of ships at end of life, as most of ship’s materials can be re-used/re-purposed. However, current methods for ship recycling also make it one of the most dangerous occupations in the world, threatening human lives and negatively impacting our environment. The Hong Kong Convention sets out requirements designed to reduce the environmental impact and improve the health and safety of current ship recycling practices worldwide.

**OBJECTIVE**

The Convention is aimed at ensuring ships, when being recycled after reaching the end of their operational lives, do not pose any unnecessary risks to human health, safety and to the environment.

**KEY ELEMENTS & EXPECTED RESULTS**

The Hong Kong Convention intends to address all the issues around ship recycling, including the fact that ships sold for scrap may contain environmentally hazardous substances such as asbestos, heavy metals, hydrocarbons, ozone-depleting substances and others. It also addresses concerns raised about the working and environmental conditions at many of the world’s ship recycling locations.

The text of the Hong Kong Convention was developed over three and a half years, with input from International Maritime Organization (IMO) Member States and relevant non-governmental organizations, and in cooperation with the International Labour Organization and the Parties to the Basel Convention.

Regulations in the Convention cover:

- The design, construction, operation and preparation of ships so as to facilitate safe and environmentally sound recycling without compromising the safety and operational efficiency of ships;
- The operation of ship recycling facilities in a safe and environmentally sound manner; and
- The establishment of an appropriate enforcement mechanism for ship recycling, incorporating certification and reporting requirements.

**CANADA’S INVOLVEMENT**

Transport Canada (TC) leads a delegation to IMO discussions on the Convention.

**RESULTS / PROGRESS**

**Reports**

TC and ECCC activities are documented in the proceedings of the IMO Councils and Committee Meetings and published on the IMO web site.