

# CANADA Daily News and Updates January 11th 2024

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## Ocean Updates

### BCMEA/ILWU Local 514 Bargaining Update

In an effort to conclude a negotiated collective agreement with ILWU Local 514 Ship and Dock Foremen that ensures certainty for Canada's West Coast ports, the BCMEA has filed a notice of dispute under the Canada Labour Code, seeking conciliation assistance from the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS). The parties have benefited from such third-party assistance in prior rounds of bargaining.

With the issuance of this notice, the Minister of Labour is requested to appoint a conciliation officer from the FMCS within 15 days.

The BCMEA-ILWU Local 514 Ship and Dock Foremen collective agreement covering wages, benefits, hours of work, and employment conditions expired March 31, 2023.

From the [BC Maritime Employers Association](#).

### We Got Too Accustomed to Peaceful Seas

It's somewhat ahistorical that the world's oceans have been relatively painless to navigate in the second half of the 20th century, permitting trade to flow around the world. That was not the case for much of human history. "Pirates, predatory states, and the fleets of great powers did as they pleased," wrote Jerry Hendrix, senior fellow at the Sagamore Institute, in *The Atlantic* last year. "The current reality, which dates only to the end of World War II, makes possible the commercial shipping that handles more than 80% of all global trade by volume – oil and natural gas, grain and raw ores, manufactured goods of every kind."

Such peace can no longer be assumed. It's unclear whether ongoing diversions from the Suez Canal will become the norm going forward, but it's clear that things are shifting – and it's not in the favour of frictionless trade.

Read more in an [article from FreightWaves](#).

## **Houthis Launch Largest Attack Yet on Merchant Shipping**

On Tuesday night, Iranian-backed Houthi rebels launched a massive attack on international shipping in the Red Sea, defying a series of warnings from the U.S., the UK and a small number of international partners. Dozens of merchant ships were in the area affected.

An American military official told Fox News that it is believed to be the largest Houthi attack since the militant group's campaign began in November.

Security consultancy Ambrey reported that merchant ships in the affected area were advised to "proceed at maximum speed" during the attack. No injuries or combat damage were reported.

The group's latest attack defied a final warning that the White House and a small coalition of partners issued on January 3.

Read more in an [article from The Maritime Executive](#).

## **'Damaging' Port Strikes at DP World Australia Terminals Extended**

Dockers affiliated with the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) have extended their strike action at DP World terminals nationwide.

Operations at its terminals in Brisbane, Fremantle, Melbourne and Sydney will face disruption until January 15.

Read more in an [article from The Loadstar](#).

## **International Business/Government**

### **India Facing Surprising Shortage of Factory Workers**

India's factory employment remains stagnant, even as the government is trying to boost the industrial economy to cope with chronic unemployment or underemployment, reports The Wall Street Journal.

The number of India's farm workers has grown by around 60 million over the past four years, a shift fueled in part by a food-welfare program that feeds hundreds of millions of people. But many economists expected exactly the opposite for India, and it highlights the challenges that India and foreign companies face in the push toward industrialization.

Read more in an [article from Supply Chain Brain](#).