

18 Cheviot Hill  
Porters Lake, NS B3E 1K1



## **Federal Fleet Services**

Owners and Operators of the *MV Asterix*

The Canadian Institute for Marine Engineering (CIMarE), as the representative voice of certificated Marine Engineers in Canada, is pleased to offer this letter in support of the *MV Asterix* and its owners and operators, Federal Fleet Services, in recognition of the vital role they play within Canada's defence and maritime sectors.

The vessel and its crew of professional Canadian seafarers have performed exceptionally, standing as a leading example of the Contractor Owned, Contractor Operated (COCO) model in the defence sector. The strong and effective collaboration between the Canadian Armed Forces, primarily the Royal Canadian Navy—and the civilian merchant marine crew has demonstrated clear value and, in our view, should be sustained well into the future.

The *MV Asterix* directly employs 72 seafarers, in addition to numerous shore-based personnel. Given the vessel's exemplary performance record, CIMarE advocates for the extension of its contract to help protect these highly skilled Canadian jobs. These seafarers fulfill critical roles in supporting Canadian Armed Forces operations and those of our allies, both domestically and internationally.

Furthermore, the vessel provides valuable training and development opportunities for emerging Canadian seafarers aboard a Canadian-flagged ship, helping to address an ongoing skills shortage within the marine industry.

CIMarE strongly supports the continued operation of the *MV Asterix* and the ongoing employment of its Canadian seafarers as an essential component of Canada's maritime capability and presence.

Regards,

Dalia Dief  
Chair, National Council  
Canadian Institute of Marine Engineering  
dalia@whms.ca