

# Press Release

**For immediate release**

## **A NEW SHIPBUILDING TRAINING PROGRAM LAUNCHES IN GASPÉ**

**Gaspé, December 11, 2025** – The Eastern Shores School Board and the Chic-Chocs School Service Center announce the launch of a Skills Training Certificate (STC) in shipbuilding, an innovative bilingual training program that will begin in February 2026. This initiative responds to the high demand for skilled labor in the maritime sector, which is thriving thanks to the National Shipbuilding Strategy and major investments.

### **Objectives and training content**

Offered at the Côte-de-Gaspé Training Center, this 570-hour STC program, paid up to \$25/hour from the PERFORM industrial metalworking and the CMSO maritime industry sector committee fund, prepares students to become versatile workers to support specialized trades in marine construction. They will be able to perform metalwork, painting, mechanical work, plumbing, assemble finishing elements, install electrical cables and as needed, participate in the dry docking or launching of ships. They can also install scaffolding and temporary shelters, as well as provide supervision during hot work, confined space work or work at height.

The training covers twelve specific skills, divided into 38 units. The learning outcomes include:

- The use of tools and equipment specific to shipyards;
- Prevention of health, safety, and environmental risks on a shipyard;
- Construction of temporary structures (scaffolding, access, shelters);
- Metalwork, painting, insulation;
- Installation of electrical wiring or cable trays;
- Insulation, finishing, installation of components, and other versatile skills;
- Integration into the workplace (including job preparation).

### **Partners and funding**

This training program is made possible thanks to close collaboration between the education network and leading companies in the maritime sector, including Chantier Naval Forillon, Atelier de soudure Gilles Aspirault, and Groupe Océan (Chantier Maritime Verreault). The project has received major funding of \$344,000 from the Comité sectoriel de la main-d'œuvre dans la fabrication métallique industrielle (PERFORM) and the Comité sectoriel de la main-d'œuvre de l'industrie maritime (CSMOIM). This investment demonstrates a commitment to supporting the next generation in a strategic sector for Quebec and Canada, in response to the high demand for skilled labor generated by government contracts, particularly for the construction of the POLAR MAX and other ships.

Both organizations (ESSB and CCSSC) would also like to highlight the collaboration of the Association des capitaines propriétaires de la Gaspésie (ACPG), which will provide a fleet of boats for students to use in acquiring certain skills.

## **Job prospects**

The maritime sector is experiencing strong growth, driven by major projects and government contracts for shipbuilding. These initiatives are generating thousands of jobs in the very short term, with a 100% placement rate for graduates. *“This training program is a concrete response to the needs of our region and an exceptional opportunity for our young people and adults in career transition. It opens doors to a rapidly growing sector that offers stable, well-paid jobs.”* said Josée Synnott, Director General of the Chic-Chocs School Service Center.

## **A bilingual and inclusive training program**

Each cohort will have 12 students, divided equally between 6 French students and 6 English students, promoting collaboration between the two communities. This bilingual approach reflects the reality of shipyards, where communication in both official languages is essential for the safety and efficiency of operations. *“I would like to take this opportunity to encourage young people, adults undergoing professional retraining, and workers who wish to expand their skills to consider this training. This bilingual STC program represents a transformative opportunity for the Gaspésie. By bringing together francophone and anglophone students in a collaborative learning environment that mirrors the reality of modern shipyards, we’re not only training skilled workers—we’re building bridges between communities and creating pathways to meaningful, stable careers in a strategic industry.”* concludes Denise Simoneau, Director General of the Eastern Shores School Board.

The Eastern Shores School Board and the Chic-Chocs School Service Center would also like to acknowledge the contribution and collaboration of the following School Service Centers; Navigateurs, Charlevoix, Rives-du-Saguenay, and Sorel-Tracy in developing this new skills training certificate.

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