



# OCEANS PROTECTION PLAN

## HAZARDOUS AND NOXIOUS SUBSTANCES

### WHAT ARE HAZARDOUS AND NOXIOUS SUBSTANCES?

Hazardous and noxious substances include dangerous goods and other substances (excluding oil) that, when released into the environment, could potentially be harmful to human health and marine life. They can be flammable, explosive, toxic, corrosive or reactive. Examples of hazardous and noxious substances include chemicals shipped as bulk solids or liquids, or dangerous goods being transported in container ships.

### WHAT IS THE HAZARDOUS AND NOXIOUS SUBSTANCES INITIATIVE?

The transportation of hazardous and noxious substances by ships is part of Canada's international economic trade. To date, the risk of these types of substances being released has been extremely low. However, a hazardous and noxious substance release could potentially have a significant impact on public health, the environment, marine life, and the economy.

The Government of Canada is building on existing pollution response measures to better manage potential impacts from hazardous and noxious substance releases from ships.

The objective of the Hazardous and Noxious Substances initiative is to develop a national program to better prepare for and respond to releases of these substances from ships. This work includes exploring data requirements, risk assessment, operational capacity, research and development, and Canada's potential accession to an International Maritime Organization agreement.

This initiative does not address the movement of oil by sea, which is covered by an existing specific preparedness and response regime.

Concurrently, the Government of Canada is working towards becoming part of an international convention that would establish a comprehensive liability and compensation regime for this type of incident in Canada.

### SEEKING YOUR INPUT

The Government of Canada is seeking input on how to strengthen Canada's preparedness and response capacity for addressing marine pollution caused by ship-source hazardous and noxious substance releases.

Indigenous communities, other federal partners, other levels of government, industry stakeholders, and non-governmental organizations all have an opportunity to provide input.

### WHAT'S NEXT?

Transport Canada and the Canadian Coast Guard will hold engagement sessions with Indigenous partners, coastal communities and stakeholders in 2018. Stay connected by visiting **Let's Talk – Oceans Protection Plan** at:

<https://letstalktransportation.ca/OPP>

For information on dates, locations and participant funding opportunities, please visit:

<http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/Community-Participation-Funding-Program-4445.html>

The Hazardous and Noxious Substances initiative is another action that the Government of Canada is taking to protect the country's coasts and waterways. The Government is investing \$1.5 billion in the Oceans Protection Plan, a national strategy to create a world-leading marine safety system that provides economic opportunities for Canadians today, while protecting coastlines for future generations.