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June 2025



Halfway Motors Nissan Complete Expansion!

INSIDE

NWMO issues RFP
for Centre of
Expertise

King Charles III
Coronation Medal
Ceremony

Ontario Mine
Rescue announces
district finalists of
2025

 NorthSuperiorPublishing
 @tbay25  @Scott Sumner



Protecting Ontario's Critical Minerals and Energy Sector



Tanner Ulakovic- Number 86 Eh!

**Celebrating 40 Years of the
Thunder Bay Business publication!**
-Special Feature


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Business Disruption and the True Cost of Downtime: Why Proactive Technology Makes All the Difference

Imagine this: It's Monday morning. Your team is ready to start the week, but your network is down, your phones are silent, and no one can access critical files. Calls go unanswered, and customers and employees are frustrated. The ripple effects of a single unexpected disruption can last days, weeks—even months.

The actual cost of downtime is more than just dollars and cents. It's lost productivity, damaged reputation, and the stress of won-

dering what could have been done to prevent it.

The best way to handle disruptions is to prevent them before they happen. Choosing technology solutions that focus on being proactive, not reactive—is essential because waiting for a problem is already too late.

Managed IT Services: A Proactive Approach to Business Resilience

Many businesses rely on a "break-fix" model—waiting until something breaks before fixing it. But that's a risky gamble in today's fast-paced, connected world.

Choosing Managed IT Services helps businesses stay ahead of the curve by:

- Monitoring your systems 24/7 to catch and fix problems before they cause disruptions.

- Maintaining and optimizing networks, servers, desktops, and mobile devices.
- Keeping your data safe with regular backups and patch management.
- Protecting endpoints with advanced detection and response tools that stop threats in their tracks.
- Watching the dark web for stolen credentials—alerting you before criminals can exploit them.

- Managing passwords securely so your team doesn't rely on sticky notes or spreadsheets.

- Shield your inbox with AI-powered email protection that filters out phishing, malware, and business email compromise attempts.

Don't just fix issues—prevent them, keeping your business productive and secure.

Cybersecurity: Empowering Your Team as the First Line of Defense

Technology can only go so far. Your team plays a critical role in keeping your business safe. That's why on-going cybersecurity awareness training is essential—not just a one-time workshop, but a program that adapts to evolving threats.



Cybersecurity Solutions should provide you with the following:

- On-going cybersecurity training with current and continually updated content.
- Sophisticated real-world phishing simulations to test employee awareness.
- Live, in-person training on security best practices.
- Customized programs tailored for your industry.
- Management tracking and reporting.

Cybersecurity is a shared responsibility—and your technology provider should help you every step of the way.

Cloud Voice: Staying Connected When It Matters Most

Staying connected is essential when disaster strikes and an unexpected event shuts down your office, staying connected is essential. That's where Cloud Voice comes in.

A Cloud Voice solution helps you:

- Keep your phone system running even when you can't be in the office.

- Route calls to mobile devices, laptops, or home setups seamlessly.

- Scale easily as your business grows or changes regardless of location.

Stay productive from anywhere—because business doesn't stop when the unexpected happens.

For over 40 years, we've seen how technology can make or break a business. That's why we believe in taking a proactive approach to IT, cybersecurity, and communications—so you're ready for whatever comes your way.

Whether it's preventing downtime, staying connected during a crisis, or keeping your data secure, choosing the right technology partner can make all the difference. Find a partner who takes the time to understand your business, tailors solutions to your needs, and is there when you need them most.

Penny Belluz, Director of Operations at Teleco, drives innovation in IT, security, and telecom. Teleco has proudly supported businesses with trusted technology solutions for over 40 years.



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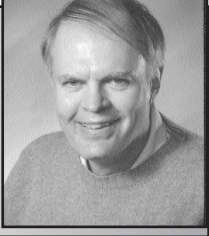
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**Publisher's
Note
Scott
Sumner**



New legislation will safeguard Canadian mining resources and energy infrastructure from foreign interference

As part of the government's plan to protect Ontario, the province is introducing new measures to prevent foreign governments or corporations from claiming Ontario's critical minerals or participating in the province's energy sector. Stephen Lecce, Minister of Energy and Mines, along with Kevin Holland, MPP for Thunder Bay-Atikokan announced details from the Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act. The proposed legislation will safeguard Ontario's critical mining resources and energy infrastructure from hostile foreign actors and regimes, creating conditions that will attract investment and make Ontario's and Canada's economy more resilient and self-reliant. "Canadian resources ought to benefit Canadians, not hostile, foreign regimes," said Minister Lecce. "In today's changing world, we need to be clear-eyed about the risks from those who want to exploit our resource bounty. That is why it is essential that Ontario is protecting our critical minerals and energy sector from getting into the wrong hands. Our government is taking action to secure our supply chains, from exploration to extraction, to ensure Canadian interests, jobs, and sovereignty always prevail." Currently, there are no safeguards in place to prevent adversarial foreign governments or corporations or bad actors from claiming critical minerals or participating in the energy sector in Ontario. This means that foreign entities can stake claim to mineral-rich deposits without the intention of harvesting them for the benefit of Ontarians or Canadians. "Ontario is taking important actions to protect our mining and energy assets during this volatile time," said MPP Kevin Holland. "This is especially important for Northern Ontario, as critical mineral and mining resources are an integral part of our economy. This legislation will ensure they remain a commodity that supports our workforce and livelihood."

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Protecting Ontario's Critical Minerals and Energy Sector



The Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act seeks to preserve and prioritize access to the province's critical minerals and energy sector by creating new measures that will allow the government to suspend or remove a registrant from the Mining Lands Administration System (MLAS) or suspend the MLAS system itself. It would also give the government the ability to deny the transfer or lease of a mining claim, or when necessary, revoke a mining claim registration or terminate a lease. New measures will also be taken to protect Ontario's essential energy usage by foreign state-owned or based companies by limiting the participation of specified foreign jurisdictions or entities in Ontario's energy sector. This aims to protect our energy systems from risks including malware, manipulation, tampering, surveillance, potential ratepayer harm, and other threats posed by foreign state-owned or based companies seeking to compromise essential services.

Quick Facts

- The 2021 report 'Foreign Interference Threats to Canada's Democratic Process' specifically noted that Canada's abundance of natural resources makes it a target for foreign interference.
- Ontario is one of the most mineral rich areas in the entire world. This includes minerals such as nickel, titanium, cobalt and lithium which cell phones, computers, medical devices, energy and electric vehicles rely on.
- Ontario's electricity grid is one of the cleanest in the world with a diverse supply mix made up of nuclear, hydroelectric, natural gas, wind, solar and bioenergy.
- As part of its plan to protect Ontario, the province introduced the Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025 on April 17, which would cut red tape and streamline approvals to speed up critical mineral and resource development projects, including in the Ring of Fire.

Quotes

"The Government of Ontario's work in protecting our critical minerals and mining resources will help maintain and create high-quality jobs in Thunder Bay and Northwestern Ontario. As mining and energy development continue to drive growth, we look forward to the additional protections and safeguards which will help Ontario companies enhance our role as leaders in the mining and energy sectors."

- Mayor Ken Boshcoff
City of Thunder Bay

"The Government of Ontario's strategic

action to protect its critical mineral sector is a clear signal to responsible investors and operators: the province is ready to lead in securing the clean energy future. We support this legislation as a catalyst for investment and a foundation for building resilient, made-in-Ontario supply chains. As Rock Tech Lithium advances our lithium projects, we remain committed to working in partnership with Indigenous communities and local stakeholders to ensure this growth is inclusive, responsible, and sustainable."

- Dirk Harbecke
Chief Executive Officer and Chairman,
Rock Tech Lithium

"Avalon has long encouraged governments at all levels to modernize regulatory policies that accelerate mining project

development without compromising integrity. The Ontario government's introduction of the Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act is a welcome and important step toward eliminating unnecessary red tape. Premier Ford and Minister Lecce are helping to create the conditions for projects like Avalon's Lake Superior Lithium Facility (the "LSLi Facility") in Thunder Bay to be built faster—unlocking job creation, economic opportunity and advancing Ontario's leadership in critical minerals."

- Scott Monteith
President and Chief Executive Officer,
Avalon Advanced Materials Inc.



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Ontario Mine Rescue announces district finalists of 2025

Top mine rescue teams to compete for provincial title

As Ontario Mine Rescue District Competitions came to a close on May 9th, each of the eight districts celebrated their winning team during the evening ceremonies. The winners are expected to compete at the Provincial Competition in June, where only one team will return home with the coveted gold hard hats.

This year’s district competition was packed with new and unexpected events – malfunctioning gear and last resort solutions during an active emergency kept competitors on their feet.

Teams began their scenario with a vehicle

crash blocking their way to a fuel bay on fire, no water available, and a casualty trapped by their seatbelt. Too hot to use a fire extinguisher, they worked quickly to free the casualty and pulled the vehicle out of the doorway. Once completed, a built-in fire suppression system activated and extinguished the fire, which allowed the team to search for the next casualty. However, they were still expected to use a fire extinguisher on a volatile fuel spill – while not the best method, it was necessary under the circumstances.

Aside from extinguishing fires and rescuing casualties, certain mine rescue volunteers are trained to troubleshoot, repair, and maintain breathing apparatus. These volunteers, known as Technicians, are



actively on standby during emergencies to service equipment. Technicians were called to action when the captain’s breathing apparatus failed a basic field test at the start of the competition.

That doesn’t mean all equipment is repairable on demand – it’s natural for old technology to become obsolete, and parts discontinued. In the first aid section, teams faced yet another equipment failure and were forced to use an alternative breathing apparatus on their casualty. Their backup plan was a new open circuit breathing apparatus, known as the MSA G1. This firefighting staple, introduced

to volunteers in the Surface Mine Rescue program, is a viable way to transport casualties through dangerous environments.

“Even if we’re prepared for any emergency, the least ideal solution could be the only one available,” says Shawn Rideout, Chief Mine Rescue Officer at Workplace Safety North. “Paying attention to your surroundings, problem-solving under pressure, and adapting as the situation unfolds is critical in mine rescue work.”

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Exciting Expansion for Half-Way Motors Nissan!

Special Feature



Halfway Motors Nissan Complete Expansion!

BY SCOTT A. SUMNER
Thunder Bay BUSINESS

The familiar Halfway Motors brand started in Thunder Bay in 1963 as a service station on Hodder Ave, originally selling Studebaker automobiles. Today in 2025, some 62 years later, they operate 5 distinct businesses including: Halfway Motors Nissan, Halfway Motors Mazda, Halfway Motors Powersports, CarStar and Halfway Motors Turf!

“There is still a service centre and a church in the old showroom on Hodder Ave. Over the beginning years we had Jeep when it was a stand alone brand, Fiat during it’s first time in North America and Volvo as a primarily brand,” said Patrick Trevisanutto, Managing Partner Halfway Motors Group. “In 1968 the Japanese with Datsun were coming into North America and they started leaving vehicles at the Hodder Ave shop - 4 or 5 at that time. My grandfather, John, sold them all! The guy came back a couple weeks later and left some more. There was a lot more trust back then. We did that for about a year and in 1968 we officially became a Datsun dealer and are the third oldest continuously family owned Nissan dealer in Canada.”

The Halfway Group now have three new, expanded and renovated properties in the area of Memorial Ave and Carrick Street. It started with a brand new Car Star facility. Then they renovated a building for the Mazda image program moving into a better location to represent the brand a little stronger. Now next door Halfway have added 7500 square feet to the Nissan store, updating to the current Nissan image program. Down the road on Carrick

Street is Halfway Motors Powersports and Halfway Motors Turf which sell BRP and John Deere products.

“Most manufacturers are global businesses and have standards that must be maintained, so they dictate what the building looks like, including the finishes. The old Nissan building wasn’t very old, only 17 years, but we had outgrown it and the new image program was required. Ultimately it will allow us to serve our customers better. We are growing and have increased our sales over the years so Nissan looks at that and says you need a bigger building to facilitate this product. It is really a faith in us from them that we are going in the right direction with the brand,” said Daniel Trevisanutto, Partner Halfway Motors Group.

As Halfway Motors Nissan sell more vehicles and get more customers a big portion of their expansion is additional shop space.

“Nobody wants to wait a week or longer to get their vehicle in for service, as it is an important part of their life to get to work, to get to their kids sports games, etc. Primarily the addition was additional shop space. We added additional hoists so we could bring in more technicians and have more customers. The service department moved into part of where the showroom was. We needed space to show cars inside because of the winter season here and rain. We also added two indoor delivery bays so someone can take delivery inside,” said Patrick.

Halfway Motors Nissan have a strong customer base in the Thunder Bay pri-



Daniel Trevisanutto, Partner Halfway Motors Group and Patrick Trevisanutto, Managing Partner Halfway Motors Group.

mary market, after 62 years of operation, but also can serve a broader base with their unique geography area including Nipigon, Marathon and out to Dryden and Fort Frances. The nearest other Nissan dealers are at Sault Ste

Marie or at Steinback near Winnipeg.

Continued



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Exciting Expansion for Half-Way Motors Nissan!

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Halfway Motors Nissan Complete Expansion!

Continued

“ We started this Halfway Motors Nissan expansion with some ground work prep but it has only really been 11 months of renovation for us to get to where we are today. We have had great work from our contractor RML Contracting and the fantastic trades that really pulled together to get the job done in a timely fashion. As we have had to be working out of a trailer or temporary work locations it is nice to have the quickest time frame. Also it was harder on our customers to know where to go. We are looking at the end of May to be in mostly complete with some paving left to do.” said Patrick Trevisanutto. “ Our Halfway team has risen to the occasion. Our service team had to work out of a trailer. Our sales team were out of the old Volvo building (which will be torn down to make way for more parking) so we tried to make the space work and have been able to service our customers the best we can.”

“ The new building will be fantastic to have everyone back in one facility and bring the team back together. It makes a big difference in servicing the customers when everyone is close together. It will be a more comfortable experience for the customers.” said Daniel Trevisanutto.



I asked Patrick about whether US tariffs have affected the business operations?

“ Tariffs have had a little effect on us, as some product is built in the US and being kept in the US. The only consistent is change over the last 5 years. We had Covid disruptions, then supply chain disruptions and now tariffs. At the end of the day you can’t control it or change it so you have to deal with what we have and control what you can. It is easy to get bogged down in the noise and forget why we are here and that is to sell cars and service customers.”

“ Nissan is a global company and we do have product coming out of Japan - including the Rogue, the Armada and the new electric vehicles. Some are built in Mexico- the all new Kicks, Sentra and Versa. We have the Pathfinder and our trucks built in the US so it is a mix.”

“ We haven’t seen a sales push because of tariffs. January and February tend to

be slower periods of vehicle sales and then they increase March and April into the summer. We’ve seen the regular cyclical situation. There is some talk by people about tariffs, but for most people a vehicle purchase isn’t impulsive, but well timed process.

“ Thunder Bay, overall is a very stable economy in the sense that we normally don’t have a boom or bust- No boom or bust, so stable which is nice. We are a very diverse economy which allows for stability.”

Patrick and Daniel are the third generation of the Halfway Motors Group. They have another brother in sales at Nissan and their sister helps with administration.

Continued



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Exciting Expansion for Half-Way Motors Nissan!

Special Feature



Halfway Motors Nissan Complete Expansion!

Continued

Patrick started working in the business at a young age!

“ I remember being very young, waking up for Saturday morning cartoons at 5 AM, and my dad John coming down and saying you’re up why don’t you come with me for breakfast. Breakfast was really quick and then it turned into sweeping the shop floor for the rest of the day! said Patrick. “ My father John is still around, retired from the business, but still active in the community. He likes to stay engaged with the staff that have been here for a long time. He enjoys the dirt tracking racing we are involved with as a family team.”

“ There isn’t anything new imminent for the Halfway Group but if opportunities arise and we feel it works to benefit the

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Continued



community, our customers and ourselves we will consider it . We are busy right now and it’s been 5 years of renovations so some normal business time would be good.” noted Patrick.

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Exciting Expansion for Half-Way Motors Nissan!

Special Feature



Halfway Motors Group Community Involvement!

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Half-Way Motors Nissan is proud to support the following organizations and events that make Thunder Bay a better place to live.

Our Dealer Principal, John Trevisanutto, recognized a need for a place where families can learn the life skills of meal preparation. As he pursued local agencies and programs, John was connected with Gladys Berringer of Our Kids Count and a partnership was formed. With John's purchase of the OKC building on McKenzie Street, his dream for a community kitchen became a reality.

Our Kids Count is a community development program that works to build stronger families and inclusive communities by enhancing people's lives through personal growth and development.

www.ourkidscount.ca

Shelter House Thunder Bay provides basic needs, comfort and dignity to people living in poverty and stimulates actions to address the root causes of homelessness.

Half-Way Motors has been a long-time supporter of the Shelter House, having



partaken in their Raise the Rent Campaign, numerous other fundraising initiatives, and providing yearly donation at Christmas.

www.shelterhouse.on.ca

The Canadian Red Cross mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity in Canada and around the world. Half-Way Motors and the Red Cross have a special relationship in Thunder Bay. John Trevisanutto, our Dealer Principal, is a recipient of the Power of Humanity Award. During the spring flooding in Thunder Bay we donated vehicles for use in the recovery efforts

and we are regular donors.

www.redcross.ca

The United Way serves communities by promoting, supporting and facilitating the organized capacity of people to help one another. Through regular payroll deductions, Half-Way Motors Nissan donates thousands of dollars per year to the annual United Way Fundraising Campaign.

www.uwaytbay.ca

Roots to Harvest provides transformative educationl opportunities for youth to engage with local agriculture and cultivate healthy communities. We

have a vision of a future where youth are leaders, connecting a diverse community and cultivating food that's healthy and accessible.

Half-Way Motors Nissan has partnered with Roots to Harvest by assisting them with a vehicle to use with their programs. If you keep an eye out, you'll see the Nissan Quest driving around town with their logo on it

www.rootstoharvest.org

Continued

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Exciting Expansion for Half-Way Motors Nissan!

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Halfway Motors Group Community Involvement!

Continued

Half-Way Motors Nissan has a very personal reason for supporting the Children's Tumor Foundation; one of their staff have a little girl who has been diagnosed with NF1. CTF is the main organization that is conducting research into finding a cure for NF 1 and 2.

quest to find a cure.
www.ctf.org

Half-Way Motors Nissan has been a supporter of the RFDA and its predecessors for 25 years now. RFDA's mission is to create a reliable and equitable emergency food distribution system throughout the region. They coordinate food collection from indi-

and ensuring efficient and effective delivery of food to those in need is helping our region.
www.foodbanksnorthwest.ca

Half-Way Motors Nissan has been a supporter of the Sleeping Giant Loppet, and before it the Sibley Ski Tour, for over 30 years now. This premier annual winter event draws hundreds of cross country skiers from all over Northwestern Ontario and the USA.

Proud to support such a prestigious

event, we have in the past supplied vehicles, given cash prize awards and for the past 3 years, provided a one-year lease to one lucky, local, winner.
www.sleepinggiantloppet.ca



Neurofibromatosis affects 1 in 3,000 people, making it more prevalent than many other 'known' diseases/disorders. There are numerous families Thunder Bay dealing with NF and we are proud to support CTF in their

viduals, organizations and a host of other sources.

We feel their work in promoting universal access to food, instruction in proper food handling and preparation



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NWMO issues RFP for Centre of Expertise

The Nuclear Waste Management Organization issued a request for proposals (RFP) to design its Centre of Expertise in the Township of Ignace.

The Centre of Expertise, which is expected to open in 2028, will be a multimillion-dollar investment and an important landmark and international destination in northwestern Ontario, serving as a hub for research and development, community engagement and knowledge sharing.

The NWMO is prioritizing local and Indigenous vendors in the evaluation criteria, on a sliding scale based on proximity to Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation and the Township of Ignace. Specifically, the contract will be for the detailed design, construction drawings, technical specifications, and cost estimates for the Centre of Expertise. An Indigenous Knowledge and Reconciliation framework will inform planning for the Centre. This framework is part of the NWMO’s Reconciliation Action Plan and reflects our commitment to advancing Reconciliation.



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The Centre for Expertise will be a place for world-class science and innovation and will bring new high-value jobs to the community, including scientists and experts from a wide variety of disciplines for generations to come. The NWMO has been in discussions

with the Township of Ignace since 2019 about the design and use of the Centre. It will be home to a technical and social research program and a technology demonstration program that will display the entire process of packaging and placing the containers of used nuclear fuel in the repository. The physical appearance of the Centre will take the surrounding environment into consideration.

The RFP is open to June 13, 2025, and the NWMO expects to award the contract in July.

“The Centre of Expertise will be home to hundreds of high-value jobs, will provide educational opportunities across the region, and is expected to attract Canadian and international visitors. This is one of the most tangible benefits and most exciting commitments made by the NWMO to the communities hosting the deep geological repository, and we can’t wait to see it spring to life in the coming years.”
-Laurie Swami, President and CEO, Nuclear Waste Management Organization

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June 2025

Tanner Ulakovic- Number 86 Eh!

BY SCOTT A. SUMNER
Great Outdoors

It is always fun to feel the passion someone has for their sport!

I was able to visit Tanner Ulakovic- Number 86 Eh! and his crew during a practice session for the upcoming dirt track racing season. Tanner is from Murillo and races a Midwest Mod or B Mod.

Tanner has been racing for several years now, starting in 2017. Before that he raced go carts and his step dad raced A Mods in the day.



selves as well.” said Tanner Ulakovic.

Tanner

I asked Tanner why do you do the racing and the immediate answer was “ I love it!

I enjoy being around race cars, going to the track and the people in the sport. It is also a family oriented time with my uncle, my cousin and others helping so much.”



His car has a 2024 Devilbliss chassis and an Adams Concept motor. The motor is a 350 Chevrolet and comes from Adams, located near Rice Lake, MN. This engine is about 200 HP less than the top class A Mods which are about 600 HP. Last year Tanner got second in points locally and third for two years in a row before that. Tanner goes racing in the US as well, it depends on budgets.

“ It is a very expensive sport but we have really good sponsors who help us out. We put everything we can into the car our-





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King Charles III Coronation Medal Ceremony

BY SCOTT A. SUMNER
Thunder Bay BUSINESS

III Coronation Medal Ceremony presented by Kevin Holland, MPP at the Whitewater Golf Club!

The recipients were:

Cora-lee McQuire-Cyrette, Dr. Elaine Wiersma, Pastor Gary Macsemchuk,

Lucy Kloosterhuis, Rebecca Johnson, Tom Hainey, Bill Heibein and Tom Ratz.

It was nice attending the King Charles



Port of Thunder Bay April Statistics

Port of Thunder Bay Cargo Statistics

Cargo	April			Year to Date Apr 30		
	2025	2024	Average	2025	2024	Average
Grain	860,541	849,605	779,995	1,096,924	1,145,178	994,666
Coal	26,074	55,352	44,302	26,074	55,352	44,302
Potash	140,397	157,656	76,763	140,397	157,656	76,763
Dry Bulk	13,187	41,221	45,337	13,187	41,221	45,337
Liquid Bulk	0	5,434	3,387	0	5,434	3,387
Keefer	25,573	28,317	5,522	25,573	28,317	5,522
General Cargo - Other	0	583	117	0	583	117
Totals	1,065,772	1,138,168	955,423	1,302,155	1,433,741	1,170,094

Vessels	April			Year to Date Apr 30		
	2025	2024	Average	2025	2024	Average
Domestic	36	34	32	45	45	41
Foreign	13	16	10	13	16	10
American	1	1	0	1	1	0
	50	51	42	59	62	51

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