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1st September 2016

Dear Sir/Madam,

Sail Training International is the international voice of Sail Training, a registered charity (not-for-profit organisation), which has worldwide membership and activities. Its purpose is the development and education of young people through the Sail Training experience, regardless of nationality, culture, religion, gender or social background. The organisation was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize 2007 for its work in promoting international understanding and friendship. STI organises The Tall Ship Races and Regattas, usually in European waters. In 2017 a major Trans-Atlantic event will take approximately 3000 young trainees for an adventure of a lifetime. Supported by the Government of Canada through the Minister of Canadian Heritage, the [Rendez-Vous 2017 Tall Ships Regatta](#) will be a race of over 7,000 miles, visiting six countries and commemorates Canada 150 – the 150th anniversary of the Canadian Confederation 1867-2017.

Students taking on this challenge will experience a challenging but rewarding Sail Training voyage in the international company of like-minded peers from all over the world. Sail Training is an adventure activity, which includes far more than sailing instruction. Participants are required to confront demanding challenges, both physical and emotional. It is an activity that inspires self-confidence and personal responsibility. It promotes an acceptance of others whatever their social or cultural backgrounds and develops a willingness to take controlled risks. Being in the company of students from all parts of the world will furthermore inspire international friendship and intercultural understanding. This opportunity will thus not only be meaningful for the students in their personal and social development, but will also be of great value for their future international maritime careers.

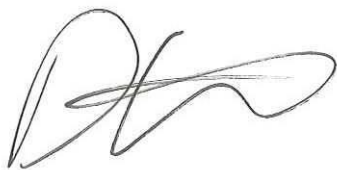
To realize The Tall Ships Races and our other events we work closely with the world's sail training tall ships, national sail training organisations and host ports to help young people benefit from the sail training experience. Windseeker has been a valuable partner in this endeavor for over 12 years, helping youngsters from all possible backgrounds find a suitable vessel and funding for their tall ships adventure, but also by organizing several International Youth Exchanges every year, most of which with funding from the European Union fund of Erasmus+. Windseeker's experience with international partnerships, their connections within the sail training world, its team and its passion to inspire young people makes the organization a valuable and appreciated ally in our belief in the value of sail training voyages. **As such, we fully support their mission to invite maritime students from all maritime education institutions in the world to join the transatlantic Rendez-Vous 2017 Tall Ships Regatta from Halifax (Canada) to Le Havre (France).**

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Members: the national/representative sail training organisations of Australia, Belgium, Bermuda, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, UK, USA
Probationary Members: Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, India

Those who undertake Sail Training on tall ships generally find it a positive life-changing experience. Windseeker and STI hope to welcome your students on board in 2017.

Yours sincerely,



Doug Prothero
Chairman