

Ottawa

Room 519, Confederation Building
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
Tel.: 613-943-2180
Fax: 613-993-5577

Constituency

126 Ingram Street Suite 101
Duncan, British Columbia V9L 1P1
Tel: 1-866-609-9998
Fax: 250-746-2354



Alistair MacGregor

Member of Parliament/Député
Cowichan-Malahat-Langford
Alistair.MacGregor@parl.gc.ca

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The Honourable Catherine McKenna
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A0A6

Dear Minister McKenna,

I am writing to you concerning correspondence you received with respect to the protections of fish and fish habitat in Shawnigan Lake, British Columbia.

I have included both my first letter and the response received from the Honourable Hunter Tootoo on this issue. Communities affected by this project are asking for a federal review in the interest of protecting fish and fish habitat and also their drinking water health.

Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Alistair MacGregor
Cowichan-Malahat-Langford

Cc: Nathan Cullen, Member of Parliament for Skeena-Bulkley Valley, NDP Environment Critic

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The Honourable Hunter Tootoo
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A0A6

Dear Minister Tootoo,

I am writing in regard to the contaminated soil landfill operated by South Island Aggregates in Shawnigan Lake, a beautiful part of my riding. I have spoken directly with the New Democratic Party's Fisheries critic, Fin Donnelly, MP for Port Moody—Coquitlam and he advised me to write directly to you as this is an urgent matter.

According to the Shawnigan Lake Area Director and the Shawnigan Residents' Association, the landfill poses an environmental risk to the aquatic life in the waterway as well as a fundamental risk to drinking water for the community. There are no plans to deal with a failure on the site or by the provincial ministry of the environment.

They also state that engineering failures are commonplace and all of the experts who testified during the ministry's hearings agreed that the site was not suitable for a contaminated soil dump. A soil dump on a community watershed does not make sense.

The Fisheries Protection Program role is to provide for sustainability and ongoing productivity of fisheries and to make regulatory decisions under the fisheries protection provisions of the Fisheries Act. The program is specifically responsible for reviewing projects for which a section 35(2)(b) Fisheries Act Authorization is required to ensure proponents avoid serious harm to fish.

A review of the project in Shawnigan Lake is imperative as it poses a significant risk to fish and fish habitat. I ask that you conduct a review of this site and work with provincial partners in stopping the project in the interest of protecting fish habitat.

Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Alistair MacGregor
Member of Parliament for Cowichan-Malahat-Langford

Cc: Fin Donnelly, Member of Parliament for Port Moody—Coquitlam, NDP Critic for Fisheries



JAN 25 2016

Alistair MacGregor
Member of Parliament for Cowichan-Malahat-Langford
Room 519, Confederation Building
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. MacGregor:

Thank you for your correspondence concerning Shawnigan Lake, British Columbia.

I appreciate your concern for the protection of fish and fish habitat. The conservation and protection of Canada's fisheries resources is a top priority for Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). The role of DFO's Fisheries Protection Program (FPP) is to provide for the sustainability and ongoing productivity of commercial, recreational and Aboriginal fisheries, and to make regulatory decisions under the fisheries protection provisions of the *Fisheries Act*.

Environment Canada is the federal authority responsible for managing any deposits of deleterious substances into waters frequented by fish through the pollution prevention provisions of the *Fisheries Act* (section 36). As such, I have forwarded your correspondence to my colleague, the Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change.

Pollution prevention is also the responsibility of the Environmental Protection Division of British Columbia's Ministry of Environment. Accordingly, I have directed a copy of your correspondence to the Honourable Mary Polak, British Columbia Ministry of Environment.

Thank you again for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Hunter Tootoo, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
The Honourable Mary Polak, M.L.A.
Government of British Columbia's Minister of Environment