



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Alistair MacGregor

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT - COWICHAN-MALAHAT-LANGFORD

Parliamentary Office
519 Confederation Building
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Duncan Community Office
101-129 Ingram St
Duncan, BC V9L 1P1

Langford Community Office
3202B Happy Valley Rd
Langford, BC V9C 1P1

Ottawa Tel: 613-943-2180

Community Office Toll Free Tel: 1-866-609-9998

Email: Alistair.MacGregor@parl.gc.ca **Web:** alistairmacgregor.ca



The Honourable Dominic LeBlanc

Minister's Office
200 Kent Street
Station 15N100
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0E6

March 7, 2017

Dear Minister LeBlanc,

RE: Oceans Protection Plan, new lifeboat stations in Port Renfrew, BC.

Last November, the Government of Canada announced a \$1.5 billion national Oceans Protection Plan. Central to this announcement was a commitment to "six new lifeboat stations, including stations in Victoria, Port Renfrew, and Nootka."

The plan also explicitly stated that "the Government of Canada will partner with Indigenous and coastal communities to develop a world-leading marine safety system...."

I wholeheartedly applaud the promise of a new lifeboat station in Port Renfrew. The town of Port Renfrew is a beautiful part of the Vancouver Island coast and my constituency. The people who live there are deeply connected to the ocean and all it provides. The Pacheedaht First Nation and the residents of Port Renfrew rely on the ocean for sustenance, transportation, recreation, and tourism. Additionally, commercial and sport fishing continues to play a large role in the local economy. We need to ensure that marine safety is of paramount importance and that emergency infrastructure is available when and where it is needed.

However, I have some concerns about the process so far.

First, although the plan states the government will partner with Indigenous and coastal communities, neither the Pacheedaht First Nation nor the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Director, Capital Regional District (CRD) were made aware of the potential new life boat station in Port Renfrew prior to November's announcement.

Second, when pressed, officials with Office of the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and Canadian Coast Guard could not provide any information about the actual location of the new "life boat station" and (most troublingly) now say this "life boat station" may only consist of a storage location for some basic safety equipment.

My questions to you are:

Will Port Renfrew, BC get an actual Coast Guard life boat station with equipment, boats, and staff like the one in Bamfield, BC as promised?

Will the Ministry of Fisheries, Oceans and Canadian Coast Guard actually engage in meaningful consultation and collaboration with The Pacheedaht First Nation and the residents of Port Renfrew towards building the "world-leading marine safety system" outlined in the Oceans Protection Plan?

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Alistair MacGregor
Member of Parliament
Cowichan-Malahat-Langford

cc:

Minister of Transport

Minister of Environment and Climate Change

Chief and Council, Pacheedaht First Nation

Mike Hicks, Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Director, Capital Regional District

MLA John Horgan, Langford-Juan de Fuca