

Minister of Transport



Ministre des Transports

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0N5

JUL 18 2017

Mr. Alistair MacGregor, M.P.  
Cowichan–Malahat–Langford  
House of Commons  
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6



Dear Mr. MacGregor:

Thank you for your correspondence of June 13, 2017, regarding the use of anchorages in Cowichan Bay and the southern Gulf Islands.

Canada is a maritime trading nation in which our ports and coastal waterways play a vital role in the economy. Transportation 2030, Transport Canada's vision for Canada's transportation system, is premised on achieving economic growth through a transportation system that is safe, secure, efficient and protects the environment.

I am aware of the concerns your constituents are raising and take them seriously. Under Canada's recently announced Oceans Protection Plan, we have committed to undertake work to develop and implement a process to identify and manage new anchorages outside the jurisdiction of Canada Port Authorities or public ports across the country. This process will be developed with the advice of appropriate technical experts to enable the assessment of a range of risks to both marine safety and the surrounding coastal environment. The process would also provide stakeholders with an interest in the location of anchorages with an opportunity to participate and share their views.


In the meantime, I encourage you to continue to engage with the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority (VFPA) to share your concerns regarding anchorage use in the southern Gulf Islands and local marine traffic operations. As a Canada Port Authority, the VFPA operates at arm's length from the federal government under the provisions of the *Canada Marine Act*.

While Transport Canada works closely with Port Authorities on a number of matters, the department does not participate in day-to-day business operations and decisions, including agreements between a Port Authority and terminal operators with respect to ship loading and unloading.

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Thank you for taking the time to write to me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marc Garneau". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the name.

The Honourable Marc Garneau, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Transport