



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Alistair MacGregor

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT - COWICHAN-MALAHAT-LANGFORD

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March 16, 2018

The Honourable Carla Qualtrough
Minister of Public Services and Procurement
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada
K1A 0A6

The Honourable Carolyn Bennett
Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada
K1A 0A6

Re: Canada Post Service to residents of Penelakut Island

Dear Ministers Qualtrough and Bennett,

I am writing to bring to your attention the issue of mail service to Penelakut Island in my riding of Cowichan-Malahat-Langford.

Penelakut Island is situated off of the east coast of Vancouver Island, across from the communities of Chemainus and Saltair, and it lies south of neighbouring Thetis Island. The island is home to Penelakut Tribe and is reserve land under their control. It is my understanding that residents currently need to travel via ferry to Chemainus to receive their mail.

After several conversations with concerned constituents from Chemainus, as well as Penelakut Tribe members on Penelakut Island, it has become clear that not enough resources are being allocated by Canada Post to adequately address the postal needs of the residents there. I have been told that the travel and cost involved in getting one's mail is incredibly frustrating because of the reliance on the ferry service. Without a local postal service, the residents of Penelakut Island are isolated and are spending an encumbering amount of time and resources to access a service that most Canadians enjoy with relative ease.

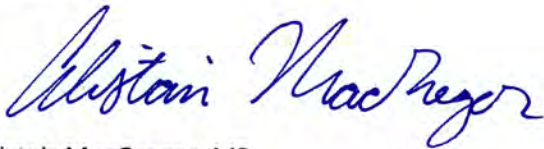
BC Ferries currently runs five non-stop sailings from Penelakut Island to Chemainus per day. (There is one additional sailing on Fridays.) Each non-stop sailing takes thirty-five minutes, not including boarding and disembarking. Once in Chemainus, Penelakut Island residents must walk or drive to the Canada Post office at Waterwheel Park (a 400 metre distance from the ferry terminal). Non-stop ferry sailings from Chemainus to Penelakut Island are scheduled at intervals ranging from two hours to over three hours apart. In short, Penelakut Island residents must allot several hours and a ferry fare to the generally simple task of checking their mail.

The residents of Penelakut Island and Penelakut Tribes are asking for help to relieve the isolation and burdens incurred through not receiving direct mail service to their community.

I have deep respect for our postal services and the work they do. I understand that many Canada Post detachments, especially in small and rural communities, are under-resourced and are strained to deliver the mail in an efficient manner. However, after running on a platform to save home mail delivery and a commitment to First Nations reconciliation, I ask that you consider committing the resources required to bring the same postal services that nearly all Canadians enjoy to the residents of Penelakut Island.

I appreciate your attention to these matters, and I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alistair MacGregor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alistair MacGregor, MP
Cowichan-Malahat-Langford

Cc: Penelakut Tribe
Cc: Moe Vesey

AM/rm UFCW 232