



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**  
101-126 Ingram St  
Duncan, BC V9L 1P1

**Langford Community Office**  
3202B Happy Valley Rd  
Langford, BC V9C 2V8

**Ottawa Tel:** 613-943-2180

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

**Email:** [Alistair.MacGregor@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Alistair.MacGregor@parl.gc.ca) **Web:** [alistairmacgregor.ca](http://alistairmacgregor.ca)



March 18, 2018

The Honourable Marc Garneau, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Transport  
330 Sparks Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0N5

***Re: Ocean Protection Plan (OPP) Dialog Forum***

Dear Minister Garneau,

We are writing to express our disappointment that Transport Canada has excluded elected Members of Parliament from the Oceans Protection Plan (OPP) Anchorages Initiative. We strongly feel that as MPs who represent coastal communities, we should be included in the dialogue.

The next OPP Dialogue Forum is taking place in Vancouver on March 20-21, during a sitting week for the House of Commons, so our fellow Vancouver-area Members of Parliament will be unable to attend. In addition to this March forum in Vancouver, we are requesting that an additional OPP Anchorages Dialogue Forum be held on mid Vancouver Island.

Minister, we have both written to you regarding the concerns many of our constituents have with the use of existing deep sea anchorages within the coastal areas of our ridings. In many instances, vessels have been at anchor for long periods of time in eco-sensitive areas, presenting a risk to the environment and causing large amounts of noise and light pollution to nearby residents. Because the problematic anchorages primarily affect and impact Island residents, we believe this necessitates a forum here. Having a forum just in the Vancouver area does not allow for easy participation by many First Nations, constituents, or stakeholders in our ridings, or any other part of Vancouver Island and the Southern Gulf Islands for that matter.

Because we have been on the record with you, in letters, meetings, and questions in Parliament about the impacts of bulk commercial anchorages in our communities, we are particularly dismayed that your office has failed to inform and include us in the OPP Dialogue Forum or in your recently announced Interim Protocol for the Use of Southern B.C. Anchorages.

This exclusion is inconsistent with your mandate letter from the Prime Minister:

“As Minister, you will be held accountable for our commitment to bring a different style of leadership to government. This will include: close collaboration with your colleagues; meaningful engagement with Opposition Members of Parliament, Parliamentary Committees and the public service; constructive dialogue with Canadians, civil society, and stakeholders, including business, organized labour, the broader public sector, and the not-for-profit and charitable sectors; and identifying ways to find solutions and avoid escalating conflicts unnecessarily.”

You will also recall the 2015 Liberal platform, which stated:

“While governments grant permits for resource development, only communities can grant permission.  
We will ... introduce new, fair processes that will: provide ways for Canadians to express their views and opportunities for experts to meaningfully participate.”

The use of southern BC anchorages is being exacerbated by the problem of grain shipments in the prairies, and the issue is of particular concern to our constituents at present. We look forward to receiving your response detailing a Vancouver Island OPP Dialogue Forum on anchorages and how we may be formally involved. We ask that this information be forwarded to our respective offices as early as possible, as we would like to be able to forward the relevant information to our constituents.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Alistair MacGregor MP  
Cowichan-Malahat-Langford



Sheila Malcolmson, MP  
Nanaimo-Ladysmith

Cc: Constituents  
Cc: Robert Aubin, MP – NDP Critic for Transport