

23 October, 2023

Honourable Diane Lebouthillier  
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6  
min@dfo-mpo.gc.ca  
(via e-mail)

Dear Minister Lebouthillier,

First, we would like to congratulate you on your recent appointment as Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and Canadian Coast Guard. We enjoyed regular communication with your predecessor and her staff, and we hope to continue that dialogue with you as you manage this ongoing situation. We all agree that the Federal Government should meet the treaty obligations for which they are responsible, but we believe this needs to be balanced with the potential public safety and economic impacts on our coastal communities. As you are likely aware, South West Nova Scotia is home to many Indigenous communities and is also home to a significant portion of Atlantic Canada's total oceans sectors.

We are writing as the Mayors and Wardens of 11 Municipal units in southwest Nova Scotia to request a meeting with you where we'd like to discuss ongoing challenges around Indigenous and non-Indigenous fishers and the economic concerns of our municipalities and residents. We are working together to ensure efficient coordination and clarity of communication around these significant issues.

In 2021, we had encouraging discussions with Minister Joyce Murray. Those conversations gave us a platform to express the challenges faced by Indigenous and non-Indigenous fishers and their ripple effects on our communities. Those conversations left us optimistic.

However, despite those assurances, illegal fishing and out-of-season harvesting persist, casting a shadow over our communities' safety and economic well-being. It's imperative that these challenges are addressed promptly.

We respectfully request a meeting with you to discuss these enduring issues and your vision to change this narrative. Our communities are genuinely seeking clarity and action.

An in-person discussion, we believe, would be the most effective way to understand and support each other's perspectives. Chris Frotten, Chief Administrative Officer at the Municipality of Barrington will coordinate with your office on our collective behalf. He is reachable at 902-637-2015 or [cfrotten@barringtonmunicipality.com](mailto:cfrotten@barringtonmunicipality.com).

We look forward to a fulsome discussion with you at your earliest opportunity.

Sincerely,



Warden Danny Muise  
Municipality of Argyle



Warden Eddie Nickerson  
Municipality of Barrington



Warden Yvon LeBlanc  
Municipality of Clare



Warden Linda Gregory  
Municipality of Digby



Mayor Rex Stoddard  
Town of Clark's Harbour



Mayor Ben Cleveland  
Town of Digby



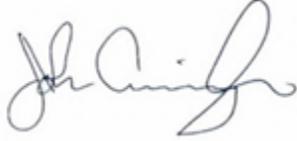
Mayor Cory Nickerson  
Town of Lockeport



Mayor Harald Locke  
Town of Shelburne



Warden Penny Smith  
Municipality of Shelburne



Warden John Cunningham  
Municipality of Yarmouth



Mayor Pam Mood  
Town of Yarmouth