

23 October 2023

Mr. Mike Kelloway, M.P.

Member of Parliament Cape Breton—Canso

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard

House of Commons

Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Mike.Kelloway@parl.gc.ca

(via e-mail)

Dear Mr. Kelloway,

As representatives of the 11 Southwest Nova Scotia municipalities, we are reaching out following our last conversation in 2022. We truly valued the time you took to understand and discuss the fisheries challenges that significantly impact our communities. There continues to be illegal harvesting, wasteful dumping of lobsters and tension in our communities – including arrests recently for violence.

Despite the assurances we garnered from our meetings with the two previous Ministers of Fisheries and Oceans and the Coast Guard, the issues surrounding illegal fishing and out-of-season harvesting remain persistent. These concerns are casting a tangible shadow over our communities' safety, economic well-being, and the harmonious collaboration we aim to achieve.

We have requested a meeting with the new Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and Canadian Coast Guard, Minister Leboutillier, and hope you can be present. Your insight and experience are critical to this discussion in seeking tangible solutions to this ongoing and extremely serious situation. If Minister Leboutillier is not willing to meet with us, we would still request a meeting with you to better understand what the Federal Government is doing on this issue.

Please have your office contact Chris Frotten, Chief Administrative Officer for the Municipality of Barrington at 902-637-2015 or cfrotten@barringtonmunicipality.com to consider dates and times that might work for an in-person visit to our region.

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



Warden Penny Smith
Municipality of Shelburne



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



Mayor Pam Mood
Town of Yarmouth

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Cunningham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and last name "Cunningham" clearly distinguishable.

Warden John Cunningham
Municipality of Yarmouth