

Minister of
Fisheries, Oceans
and the Canadian Coast Guard



Ministre des
Pêches, des Océans
et de la Garde côtière canadienne

April 5, 2024

Mr. Danny Muise
Warden of the Municipality of Argyle

His Worship Rex Stoddard
Mayor of the Town of Clark's Harbour

Mr. Eddie Nickerson
Warden of the Municipality of Barrington

His Worship Ben Cleveland
Mayor of the Town of Digby

Mr. Yvon LeBlanc
Warden of the Municipality of Clare

His Worship Cory Nickerson
Mayor of the Town of Lockeport

Ms. Linda Gregory
Warden of the Municipality of Digby

His Worship Harold Locke
Mayor of the Town of Shelburne

Ms. Penny Smith
Warden of the Municipality of Shelburne

Her Worship Pam Mood
Mayor of the Town of Yarmouth

Mr. John Cunningham
Warden of the Municipality of Yarmouth

c/o Mr. Warren MacLeod and Chris Frotten
< Warren.MacLeod@municipalityofshelburne.ca >
< CFrotten@barringtonmunicipality.com >

Dear Co-signatories:

Thank you for your correspondence regarding your request to discuss the ongoing fisheries issues in southwest Nova Scotia.

I greatly appreciate your kind words on my recent appointment. It is an honour to continue to serve Canadians and to have been named Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard.

I understand your concerns regarding illegal fishing and out-of-season harvesting activities. I want to reassure you that the safety and security of fish harvesters and the public is a top priority for me and Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and that we take the issue of illegal fishing extremely seriously.

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Through our fishery officers, and in concert with our other federal law enforcement partners, DFO is committed to enforcing the *Fisheries Act* and associated regulations, including with respect to fishing seasons. Should you have specific examples of suspected unauthorized activity, I would encourage you to call the DFO enforcement reporting line at 1-800-565-1633 (dial option 6), or contact your local DFO [Conservation and Protection detachment](#).

I am also glad that my Parliamentary Secretary, Mr. Mike Kelloway, was able to meet with you on my behalf to discuss these important issues. I look forward to our continued collaboration to uphold a safe and orderly fishery in southwest Nova Scotia.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Diane LeBouthillier', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

The Honourable Diane LeBouthillier, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: Mr. Mike Kelloway, M.P.
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the
Canadian Coast Guard

2023-001-02225

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.

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

Sincerely,



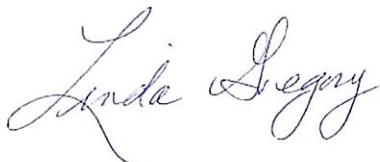
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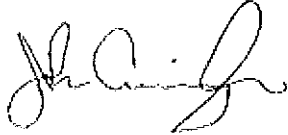
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