

Minister of Transport



Ministre des Transports

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0N5

**CRD EXECUTIVE OFFICE**

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Ms. Barbara Desjardins  
Chair  
Capital Regional District Board  
625 Fisgard Street  
PO Box 1000  
Victoria BC V8W 2S6

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	<i>0400-4p Minister of Transport</i>	

Dear Ms. Desjardins:

The Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, provided me with a copy of your correspondence of May 26, 2016, regarding the designation of the Salish Sea as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA). Please accept my apology for the delay in replying.

I note that you also wrote to the Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO). Transport Canada represents Canada at the IMO. This being the case, should you have future concerns related to international shipping, I encourage you to contact Mr. Robert Dick, Regional Director General, Pacific Region, at [robert.dick@tc.gc.ca](mailto:robert.dick@tc.gc.ca) or 604-666-5849.

With regard to the Salish Sea, Transport Canada officials have been working with the proponents of the Salish Sea proposal and with officials from other departments, including Environment and Climate Change Canada, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Transport Canada has also been in discussions with the U.S. Coast Guard, given that the waters of the Salish Sea are shared between Canada and the United States. Both countries are of the view that a PSSA designation for the Salish Sea is not an appropriate approach, as it would apply an international instrument that would be decided by IMO's 170 member states to waters that fall under the domestic jurisdictions of Canada and the United States.

That said, there are opportunities to effect protective measures in the waters of the Salish Sea under domestic jurisdiction in both countries. Departmental officials and the proponents of the proposal remain in consultation with each other. At this stage, I would note that proponents are still prioritizing the specific protective measures they wish to seek.

As you may be aware, on November 7, 2016, the Prime Minister launched the \$1.5-billion national Oceans Protection Plan, which has four main priority areas:

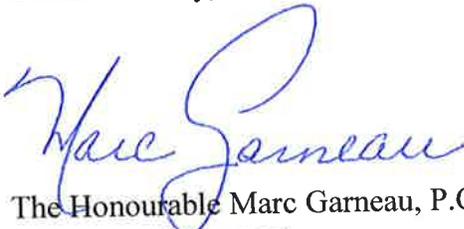
- creating a world-leading marine safety system that improves responsible shipping and protects Canada's waters, including new preventive and response measures;
- restoring and protecting marine ecosystems and habitats, using new tools and research, as well as taking measures to address abandoned boats and wrecks;
- strengthening partnerships and launching co-management practices with Indigenous communities, including building local emergency response capacity; and
- investing in oil spill cleanup research and methods to ensure that decisions taken in emergencies are evidence based.

The Oceans Protection Plan was developed based on work done over the past two years between Indigenous and coastal communities and various government programs, and will be implemented in 2017. Details can be found at <http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/oceans-protection-plan.html>.

In terms of the Salish Sea, Transport Canada will continue to work with the proponents and other stakeholders, including the marine shipping sector and the U.S. government.

Thank you for expressing your views.

Yours sincerely,



The Honourable Marc Garneau, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Transport

c.c. The Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard