



B.C. Government and Service Employees' Union
A component of NUPGE (CLC)

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May 31, 2016

The Honourable Marc Garneau, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Transport
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Garneau

I am writing to express our concerns regarding a Canadian Marine Advisory Council (CMAC) proposal. It is our understanding the past practice has been for CMAC to meet twice a year. However, there is a proposal to decrease that frequency.

The CMAC allows unions and industry to engage in meaningful discussions on issues affecting the marine sector in Canada on key topics, such as key regulatory policies and developments. The interactive and consultative nature of CMAC has led to changes in policies and regulations which have increased the safety of workers, and of the public, while benefiting industry and Transport Canada. Decreasing the frequency of meetings or cancelling CMAC meetings is a disservice to hundreds of our members who work on our coastal ferry system and the inland ferries for the highways department here in British Columbia.

The B.C. Government and Service Employees' Union (BCGEU) with our affiliate the BC Ferry and Marine Workers Union (BCFMWU) wish to add our name together with other organizations who have also expressed their support of CMAC and the value it provides. We believe the reduction of CMAC meetings will harm that engagement and consultation.

Your mandate letter included a renewed commitment to meaningful engagement with civil society, labour and other parties. Your government has also committed to meaningful consultation with stakeholders. While we understand reduction in the number of meeting opportunities may be due to financial constraints, we believe the investment in maintaining regular dialogue on marine safety is well worth the cost and commitment.

In asking you to please reconsider this proposal we are offering to attend any meeting that could be arranged to discuss this matter. In that regard, please do not hesitate to contact my assistant Brian Gardiner brian.gardiner@bcgeu.ca or 604-291-9611.

Sincerely

Stephanie Smith
President

cc Graeme Johnston, President, BCFMWU

SS/dmc

