



File: 20403-T01

May 26, 2016

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

Dear Minister Garneau:

I would like to express our concerns regarding a Canadian Marine Advisory Council (CMAC) proposal. The CMAC plays an important role in the marine sector in Canada. It 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.

Several of our affiliates are members of CMAC and have expressed their support of CMAC and the value it provides. 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.

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 Canadian Labour Congress has concerns with this proposal. 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.

We believe the reduction of CMAC meetings will harm that engagement and consultation.

The marine sector is a rapidly changing and vital sector of the Canadian economy. The semi-annual meetings allow our affiliates and industry to keep at the forefront of emerging issues. These regular meetings allow the workers doing the jobs to give their unique insight into these issues.

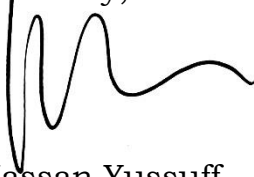
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While we understand this may be due to financial constraints, we believe CMAC is an investment in marine safety and well worth the cost.

We are asking to you reconsider this proposal and to meet with our affiliates to discuss the matter. I understand BC Ferry and Marine Workers' Union and International Longshore and Warehouse Union have both requested a meeting with you. If there is anything I can do to facilitate a meeting, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Thank you for your consideration to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hassan Yussuff'. The signature is fluid and cursive, starting with a large 'H' and ending with a long, sweeping tail.

Hassan Yussuff  
President

cc. James Clancy, NUPGE  
Jerry Dias, Unifor  
Mark Gordienko, ILWU  
Patrick Murphy, ILA  
James Given, SIU  
Irene Lanzinger, BC Federation of Labour  
Orion Irvine, CLC  
Chris MacDonald, CLC