



BRITISH  
COLUMBIA

FEB 20 2013

The Honourable Keith Ashfield, P. C., M. P.  
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and  
Minister for the Atlantic Gateway  
House of Commons  
Confederation Building  
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister:

*Minister Ashfield:*

I am writing to you once again to express our deep concern at the closing of the Kitsilano Coast Guard Station. Your government has the responsibility to keep BC harbours safe and I am disappointed that you have chosen to proceed with the closure of this vital station, particularly in the manner it was done.

Your announcement regarding the relocation of one of the inshore boats to service this area is a good first step but does not go far enough. The drop in services this area will now experience, particularly during the eight months of the year that your inshore boat is not operational, is a significant concern for us.

I understand that fiscal priorities are important. The Province of British Columbia is also making difficult decisions in order to ensure our fiscal house is in order. I urge you to reconsider this decision and find the funding to keep the Kitsilano Coast Guard Station open for the safety of British Columbia and our coastal communities. It is an important public safety priority.

The Canadian Coast Guard is highly regarded, both in BC and across our country, for its unwavering dedication to public safety. The Canadian Coast Guard deserves to be given the tools and the funding to continue this essential, life-saving work.

My staff have called your office to request a time for us to speak in person and I am hoping that can be accommodated at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Shirley Bond  
Minister of Justice  
and Attorney General

Ministry of  
Justice

Office of the  
Minister of Justice  
and Attorney General

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COLUMBIA

MAY 28 2012

The Honourable Keith Ashfield, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and  
Minister for the Atlantic Gateway  
House of Commons  
Confederation Building  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Minister:

I am writing regarding the recently announced Coast Guard facility closures in British Columbia. As you know, the Coast Guard will be closing three communications stations (Vancouver, Comox and Tofino) as well as the Kitsilano Coast Guard Station in Vancouver.

These closures are unwelcome news for British Columbia communities. I recognize that the Coast Guard facility closures are only one part of broader federal budget reductions, some of which I recently discussed with Minister Toews. However, protecting public safety must be a guiding principle for all such budget exercises.

While Coast Guard representatives have assured my staff that the facility closures in British Columbia will not impact public safety, I urge you to reconsider this decision. My staff have been in contact with your office to arrange a time for us to connect so that we can discuss this issue further.

The Coast Guard is highly regarded in British Columbia and nationally for their unwavering dedication to public safety, and it is essential that they are adequately supported in their mission.

I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Shirley Bond  
Minister of Justice  
and Attorney General

pc: Vija Poruks  
Assistant Commissioner, Canadian Coast Guard

Ministry of  
Justice

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Ottawa, Canada K1A 0E6

MAY 30 2012

The Honourable Shirley Bond, M.L.A.  
Minister of Justice and Attorney General  
Government of British Columbia  
P.O. Box 9044, Station Prov Govt  
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V8W 9E2

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Dear Minister:

Thank you for your correspondence of May 28, 2012, regarding the Canadian Coast Guard's (CCG's) three Marine Communication and Traffic Services centres, as well as the Kitsilano station in British Columbia.

I can assure you that the decisions to consolidate the CCG's search and rescue services in Vancouver Harbour and the modernization of the Marine Communication and Traffic Services were made with careful consideration for public safety.

On average, 74 percent of the taskings for Kitsilano are for non-distress calls. It is important to note that Kitsilano's workload intensity from month to month is not significantly different from other lifeboat stations, and that it is in close proximity with the Coast Guard base at Sea Island. Therefore, it is clear that the new Inshore Rescue Boat will be more than adequate to cover all the calls in the Kitsilano area.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) officials and I have determined that the best mix of resources to provide search and rescue response in the Vancouver Harbour area includes the addition of an inshore rescue boat in the Vancouver Harbour, the CCG's hovercraft at Sea Island, the strengthening of the CCG Auxiliary presence and local emergency responders and, as always, vessels of opportunity. This will ensure best coordinations between all responders.

I am confident that these changes will not compromise safety, nor will they result in gaps in the delivery of search and rescue services in the Vancouver Harbour area. Instead, they will ensure marine search and rescue services will be assured.

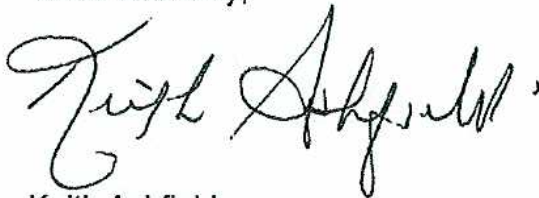
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As for the Marine Communication and Traffic Services, the CCG will be consolidating and modernizing the delivery of these services nationally. The telecommunication technology improvements and the significant investment in CCG infrastructure will improve the CCG's ability to deliver high-quality safety services to Canadians, and will increase the reliability of marine communications. Modern technology is such that these services can be provided far more effectively from consolidated centres than they can be from disconnected and dispersed ones.

As minister responsible for marine search and rescue, I remain committed to ensuring maritime safety in Vancouver as well as in the rest of Canada. We recognize the critical importance of these safety services, and I assure you that the CCG's number one priority and mine remains maritime safety.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keith Ashfield', written in a cursive style.

Keith Ashfield