



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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JAG-2012-00917
Page 1