



December 13, 2016

The Honourable Dominic LeBlanc
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard
Government of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Reference: 262118

Dear Minister LeBlanc:

Re: Closure of the Canadian Coast Guard Comox Marine Communications Centre

I am writing to you to express my continued concern over the May 2016 closure of the Canadian Coast Guard's Comox Marine Communications and Traffic Services Centre. The recent federal announcement committing \$1.5 billion to improve marine emergency response, while increasing support for indigenous communities and adding new Coast Guard bases and communications capacity, does not specifically mention the reopening of this valued service.

As British Columbia's Minister of State for Emergency Preparedness, my mandate includes working with the federal government to improve marine safety. British Columbians need to know they can rely on assistance from the Canadian Coast Guard during emergencies. Recent events have highlighted the need to maintain reliable communications to support a swift marine response capacity.

I am asking that the safety and protection of our marine users, coastal communities and environment continue to be given the highest priority and that due consideration be given specifically to the reopening of the Canadian Coast Guard Comox Marine Communications and Traffic Services Centre.

The Province of British Columbia values the cooperative and beneficial relationship we have with the Canadian Coast Guard and its staff who work hard to keep our residents and waterways safe.

I look forward to continuing our work to improve marine safety on the west coast.

Sincerely,

Naomi Yamamoto
Minister of State for Emergency Preparedness