

Fisher, Darren - M.P.

From: Fisher, Darren - M.P.
Sent: April 11, 2024 9:50 AM
To: tc.ministeroftransport-ministredestransports.tc@tc.gc.ca
Cc: Prime Minister's Office; Arsenault, Elizabeth; Badawey, Vance - Personal; Jackson, Sarah (TC/TC)
Subject: URGENT: Transport Canada's approval of project 2022-206446 in Dartmouth Cove, Nova Scotia.
Attachments: 20220608 Dartmouth Cove Infill Project Navigational Impact_ Comments submitted by COVE.pdf

Dear Minister,

I am writing to you today regarding concerns surrounding Transport Canada's approval of project 2022-206446 in Dartmouth Cove, Nova Scotia.

I've written and spoken with you and your predecessor regarding this project, numerous times, as my constituents in Dartmouth—Cole Harbour, including myself, have serious concerns surrounding this project.

Recognizing that our federal jurisdiction is extremely limited in scope, including only impacts to navigation and impacts to fish habitat, the focus of my correspondence today is navigation.

I am extremely disappointed to see that Transport Canada issued an approval for this project under the *Canadian Navigable Waters Act* (CNWA). To be clear, I firmly believe that Transport Canada failed to meet their mandate, as this project will cause serious impacts to navigation in this heavily used waterway.

I recognize that there were many submissions regarding the impacts to navigation during Transport Canada's submission period, however, I will focus on the attached submission from the Centre for Ocean Ventures and Entrepreneurship (COVE). COVE is Canada's leading ocean innovation hub and is located immediately adjacent to the property in question. Our Government and the Province of Nova Scotia invested in this important facility in order to make it a reality — it is a jewel in Halifax Harbour and something our government should be very proud of.

Numerous companies involved in the ocean tech and marine security sector call COVE home, and much of the important work they do takes place in Dartmouth Cove. COVE is both nationally and internationally recognized for the important work they do, and for their strategic location in Dartmouth Cove. Recently, COVE was named as an Accelerator for NATO DIANA, and it is crucial that the work they do is able to continue unimpeded.

COVE's submission clearly showed that the work they do within Dartmouth Cove takes place 365 days a year and would be negatively impacted and impeded by this infill project:

"The neighbouring waterlot to the North, PID 00114132, is routinely navigated over and around by vessels accessing and departing the COVE floating docks. This occurs on a daily basis. The floating docks operate year-round and have been occupied for the past 365 days. A variety of watercraft and vessels make use of these facilities. For example, larger craft that are home-ported at COVE include the Ocean Seeker (20m length, 6m width) and the Leeway Striker (22m length, 5m width). The COVE floating docks are situated in a protected water way mitigating potential impediments such as significant wind, wave and weather conditions and are sought after for smaller craft and for high tech applications commonly occurring at COVE."

Since their submission in 2022, COVE has continued to grow, and the number and size of the vessels they work with have grown. Now that COVE has been listed as an Accelerator for NATO DIANA it is even more egregious that Transport Canada would have issued this approval.

Since Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine, the world has changed. NATO's work is more important now than ever. And we must respect the work that NATO DIANA accelerators, like COVE, will do to help bolster our own national security, and the security of our Allies.

As Parliamentarians it is our job to ensure that we hold the government to account, including government departments. As the Member of Parliament for Dartmouth—Cole Harbour I am asking that you rescind approval for this project, as the department has failed to meet the mandate of the *Canadian Navigable Waters Act* (CNWA).

There is still time to right this wrong.

Sincerely,

Darren Fisher, MP
Dartmouth—Cole Harbour

CC: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau
Parliamentary Secretary Vance Badawey

FYI: <https://darrenfisher.ca/letter-from-minister-of-transport-regarding-dartmouth-cove-2024-03-04/>