

DARREN FISHER

Member of Parliament / Député
Dartmouth - Cole Harbour

The Honourable Pablo Rodriguez
Minister of Transport

April 30, 2024

Dear Minister,

I am following up regarding my correspondence from April 11, 2024.

As you are aware from the volume of correspondence you've received regarding your approval of project #2022-206446, there is significant evidence to show this work would impede navigation and is not in the public interest. You should also be aware of the significant concerns from Indigenous communities and stakeholders who urged you to take their traditional knowledge, and their historic, cultural, and current use of this cove, into account when making a decision regarding this work.

In Nova Scotia, we are all Treaty people, and we take our collective commitment to the Peace and Friendship Treaties seriously. My riding of Dartmouth—Cole Harbour is located in Mi'kma'ki, which is the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq. It is clear to me that meaningful consultation with Indigenous communities and stakeholders has not adequately taken place. I believe that for this reason you have the evidence needed to cancel your approval for this work.

My office was copied on correspondence you received from stakeholders and individuals that actively use Dartmouth Cove for navigation and for research of national and international significance. These stakeholders provided evidence to you that clearly shows how this work would impede their ability to continue to operate vessels and undergo research in this area. Stakeholders, like those working from the Centre for Ocean Ventures and Entrepreneurship (COVE), were able to clearly show that vessels and equipment would no longer be able to navigate in this area. These stakeholders would no longer be able to continue their work in Dartmouth Cove, developing advanced capabilities in fisheries, aquaculture, marine transportation, defence and security. As a reminder, the work taking place in Dartmouth Cove is internationally recognized and one of the reasons that COVE was named an accelerator for NATO's Defence Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic (DIANA). I believe that for these reasons you have the evidence needed to cancel your approval for this work.

As you know, when determining whether to issue an approval, you as the Minister must consider factors such as the impact of the work on navigation, in combination with other works on navigation — and there are very real concerns surrounding the cumulative impact of this work on the navigable water. It's no secret that infill has taken place here in Dartmouth Cove, however, the cumulative impact of this work, the addition of 1.2 hectares of infill, will ensure there isn't a Dartmouth Cove. I believe that for this reason you have the evidence needed to cancel your approval for this work.

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As you know from the correspondence you've received and from news articles, there is significant public opposition to this infill work, and representatives from all three orders of government, including myself, have spoken out against this infill for the sake of infill. The local Municipal Councillor said that as per zoning, this dump site would remain a "moonscape" in our community. I do not believe that Dartmouth is a dump for someone's fill.

I am aware that under Canadian Navigable Waters Act, s 9 (4), the Minister may cancel an approval if it is in the public interest to do so. It is clear from the correspondence and evidence you've received, that this project is not in the public interest. I ask that you cancel your approval of project #2022-206446 based on the significant volume of evidence you've been provided from Indigenous and local stakeholders, along with members of the community who work and/or spend time in Dartmouth Cove.

Respectfully,



Darren Fisher, Member of Parliament
Dartmouth—Cole Harbour