

PETITION TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

We, the undersigned Citizens of Canada, draw the attention of the House of Commons to the following:

WHEREAS, the closing of the Canadian Coast Guard’s Marine Communications and Traffic Services (MCTS) Centres in St-John's, N.L. ; St-Anthony, N.L.; Saint John, N.B.; Rivière au Renard, QC; Montréal, QC; Thunder Bay, Ont.; Vancouver, B.C.; Tofino, B.C.; Comox, B.C.; Inuvik, N.W.T. and the closing of the Coast Guard’s Marine Rescue Centres in Quebec City, Qc, St. John’s, N.L., Kitsilano, B.C increases the risk of accidents involving passenger ships, ferries, tankers carrying crude oil and dangerous cargo, increases the risk of sea travel, since officers will be busier and calls for help may go unheard; and have led to cuts to staff and the closure of Centres which would threaten the lives of fishers and other mariners and puts the marine environment at risk;

WHEREAS, the closure of the Inuvik MCTS Centre weakens Canada’s sovereignty in the North, and contradicts the Government of Canada’s own Senate recommendations to strengthen the Coast Guard’s presence in the Arctic;

WHEREAS, the closure of the Marine Rescue Centres threatens mariner safety, while other Rescue Centres will be forced to rely on under-staffed MCTS Centres to assist with rescues;

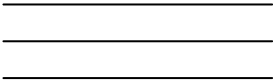
WHEREAS, the closure of the Coast Guard Centres in Quebec increases the risk to Francophone fishers and mariners who may not be understood by staff in Anglophone Centres in situations of distress;

THEREFORE, your petitioners call on the Government of Canada to reverse its decision to reduce Coast Guard staff and to reverse its decision to close MCTS and Marine Rescue Centres.

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Please return (postage paid) to: Peter Julian, M.P. for Burnaby—New Westminster
Room 184, Confederation Building, House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

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Peter Julian, MP
Room 184 - Confederation Building
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