



Fisheries and Oceans  
Canada

Pêches et Océans  
Canada

Canadian  
Coast Guard

Garde côtière  
canadienne

Deputy Commissioner  
Strategy and Shipbuilding

Sous-commissaire  
Stratégie et construction navale

**MAY 17 2018**

Mr. Gary Blundell  
Program Manager  
Canadian Arctic Resources Committee  
< [gary.blundell@carc.org](mailto:gary.blundell@carc.org) >

Dear Mr. Blundell:

*Gary*

Thank you for your letter of January 31, 2018, addressed to the Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, regarding trans-Arctic shipping. I have been asked to reply on the Minister's behalf.

The \$1.5 billion Oceans Protection Plan (OPP) was announced on November 7, 2016, by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. The object of the plan is to improve marine safety and responsible shipping, protect Canada's marine environment and offer new possibilities for Indigenous and coastal communities. The OPP includes 57 initiatives led by Transport Canada (TC) and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), including the Canadian Coast Guard. The initiatives also involve Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada and Natural Resources Canada. These initiatives include new measures to invest in coastal protections and improve charting of Arctic waters.

The OPP provides policy levers that enable the Coast Guard—in collaboration with TC, DFO and ECCC—to increase the formal role, capacity and participation of Indigenous groups in marine safety. The Government of Canada is actively working with Indigenous communities in the North to identify shared priorities and deliver programs and services in a way that respects the cultural importance of land, water and wildlife in the Arctic environment. With that in mind, work is being done to develop low-impact shipping corridors that will take into consideration migration routes, traditional hunting and harvesting areas and ecologically sensitive areas.

Other Arctic initiatives include the development of a coastal environmental baseline monitoring program, used to assess cumulative impacts of marine shipping, and work with Indigenous and coastal communities to design new information-sharing systems and platforms, providing real-time information on marine shipping activities in local waters. DFO is also working with TC to implement a governance model for the Arctic shipping regime and to modernize regulatory and oversight framework in Arctic waters.

Regarding icebreaking, the Coast Guard provides these services to support the safe, economical and efficient movement of ships in Canadian waters. This is done through the employment of a multi-year integrated Fleet/Program planning process where all program requirements are analyzed and planned in advance of the upcoming year. Pre-season meetings are held with clients to discuss traffic expectations and service requirements. Further, vessel deployments throughout the ice season are continually evaluated and altered based on prevailing ice and traffic conditions, and discussions with clients. Great care is taken to ensure that community concerns about local waters are taken into consideration.

The OPP is providing an opportunity to strengthen partnerships with Indigenous communities through the design and delivery of programs and services in the Arctic. Engagement sessions for the OPP have begun, providing the opportunity for partners and stakeholders to share their perspectives and feedback on preliminary questions related to relevant initiatives. Your organization's participation in these sessions is encouraged. For information regarding Arctic OPP initiatives, please contact Robert Brooks, the OPP Arctic Engagement Hub Co-Chair, at < [Robert.Brooks@dfp-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:Robert.Brooks@dfp-mpo.gc.ca) >.

Again, thank you for providing your thoughts on this matter. I trust that my response has addressed your concerns.

Yours sincerely,



Andy Smith  
Deputy Commissioner  
Strategy and Shipbuilding

- c.c. The office of the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs  
The office of the Honourable Marc Garneau, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Transport  
The office of the Honourable James Gordon Carr, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Natural Resources  
The office of the Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change