



February 5, 2021

Mr. Lindsay (Eddie) Nickerson
Warden
The Municipality of Barrington
2447 Highway 3
PO Box 100
Barrington NS B0W 1E0

Dear Mr. Nickerson:

Thank you for contacting my office regarding the events in Nova Scotia. I regret the delay in responding.

I share your concerns, and my first priority continues to be the safety of everyone involved in this issue. Fisheries and Oceans Canada's (DFO) fishery officers, the Canadian Coast Guard, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police have been coordinating their efforts on the sea, on land, and in the air, and have been working with officials from the Province of Nova Scotia. They continue to monitor the situation. The violence, destruction of property, threats, and intimidation that were witnessed do not advance our goal of reconciliation, nor do they support the further implementation of First Nation treaty rights, or a productive and orderly fishery.

We must remember that two common objectives unite everyone involved in the fisheries: first, the long-term sustainability of the resource and ensuring that it is available for generations to come; second, safe and orderly fisheries that are accessible to all harvesters. These two principles guide this department, and I hope that it is through this lens that we can find common ground, and reduce tensions.

Respectful, constructive dialogue between everyone involved in the fisheries is essential to a peaceful resolution. That is why, on October 23, 2020, the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, and I announced the appointment of Mr. Allister Surette as Federal Special Representative. In this role, he is working with both First Nations and industry to ensure all voices are heard. Separate from the nation-to-nation negotiations between government and First Nations, Mr. Surette is focusing on building long-term communication, cooperation, and understanding across our fisheries. Mr. Surette's experience in successfully settling fisheries disputes will contribute to reducing tensions in the region.

.../2

DFO is committed to renewing its relationship with Indigenous peoples, and recognizes the treaty right to fish in pursuit of a moderate livelihood as affirmed by the Supreme Court of Canada. We will continue to work on a nation-to-nation basis with First Nations leaders on the path forward to further implement their treaty right.

DFO officials and I continue to meet regularly with First Nations and industry representatives. While these meetings are out of the public eye, they remain constructive.

Once again, thank you for contacting my office to share your concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bernadette Jordan', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

The Honourable Bernadette Jordan, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard

c.c.: The Honourable Stephen McNeil, M.L.A.
Premier of Nova Scotia
Mr. Chris d'Entremont, M.P.
West Nova
The Honourable Keith Colwell, M.L.A.
Nova Scotia's Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture
Mr. Colton LeBlanc, M.L.A.
Argyle-Barrington

2447 Highway 3, P.O. Box 100, Barrington, Nova Scotia B0W 1E0

September 22, 2020

The Honourable Bernadette Jordan
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Re: Escalating Situation in St. Mary's Bay, Nova Scotia

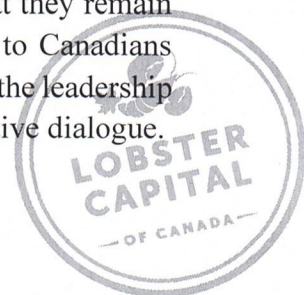
Dear Minister,

On behalf of the Council of the Municipality of Barrington, the *Lobster Capital of Canada*, I am writing to you today regarding our grave concern for the safety of everyone involved in the escalating situation in St. Mary's Bay, Nova Scotia and implore you to immediately intervene to find a peaceful resolution.

You are well aware of the importance of the lobster industry to our local economy and you also know how delicate an economy which relies on a renewable natural resource can be. For this reason, we support our local fishers and share the sentiment expressed by them and other local governments that all fishers have a right to fish, but it should only be in season. Our collective priority should be the conservation of this species.

The Municipality recognizes the importance of working alongside our First Nation people to acknowledge the value and validity of Treaty Rights. We believe that there is common ground to properly achieve this by providing clarity on what constitutes an appropriate food, social and ceremonial fishing for our First Nation people and the regulations that prohibit commercial lobster fishing outside of the season.

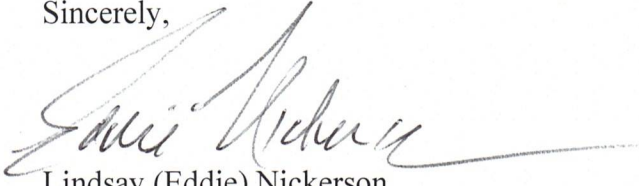
You are the Minister responsible to sustain and rebuild the fisheries, and ensure that they remain healthy for future generations, while providing important economic opportunities to Canadians and coastal communities. We know the issue is complicated, but your leadership and the leadership of your government is needed to bring all parties together to ensure an equal and active dialogue.



2447 Highway 3, P.O. Box 100, Barrington, Nova Scotia B0W 1E0

As the tensions continue to rise, we stress the urgency of this matter and respectfully ask you take effective and assertive action immediately to deescalate the situation and build a durable lobster industry for our region into the future.

Sincerely,



Lindsay (Eddie) Nickerson
Warden

cc: The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau – Prime Minister of Canada
Mr. Chris d’Entremont – M.P., West Nova
The Honourable Steven McNeil – Premier of Nova Scotia
The Honourable Keith Colwell – Minister of Fisheries and Agriculture
Mr. Colton LeBlanc – M.L.A., Argyle – Barrington
Warden Danny Muise – Municipality of the District of Argyle
Warden Ronnie Leblanc – Municipality of the District of Clare
Warden Jimmy McAlpine – Municipality of the District of Digby
Warden Penny Smith – Municipality of the District of Shelburne
Deputy Warden John Cunningham – Municipality of the District of Yarmouth
Mayor Leigh Stoddard – Town of Clark’s Harbour
Mayor Ben Cleveland – Town of Digby
Mayor Karen Mattatall – Town of Shelburne
Mayor Pam Mood – Town of Yarmouth

