



By Email: Bernadette.jordan@parl.gc.ca

The Honourable Bernadette Jordan, MP, PC
Minister's Office
200 Kent Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0E6

Subject: Fishing dispute in St. Mary's Bay

Dear Minister Jordan:

We are writing to you today with grave concerns in regard to the escalating situation that is taking place in the St. Mary's Bay region. Our organization represents many members in the Barrington and surrounding area who have a vested interest in the fishing industry and who are committed to conserving and protecting the stocks for generations to come.

First Nation fishers have a court won right to a Food, Social and Ceremonial (FSC) as well as a moderate livelihood fishery under the R. vs Sparrow and R. vs Marshall, the latter of which have yet to be defined by your government. As we await your ruling, tensions continue to increase, and public safety is at stake.

Minister, your department has a mandate to manage our coastal waters and to protect the sustainability of our fishing stocks. In your riding alone, there are 800 licensed fisherman/women and 3000 fishers including crew members. We all respect treaty rights and appreciate your efforts to negotiate with First Nations to clarify how they can pursue their right to a moderate livelihood. However, we also have a mandate to support our members and industry and ask that you also consult with harvesters as their livelihoods will also be affected by the decisions you make. Conservation of the stocks is of utmost importance. That is why we have fishing seasons, trap limits, and limited amounts of commercial licenses. When the resources are depleted, there will be none left for anyone.

In closing, I ask that you intervene and provide visible enforcement to help de-escalate rising tensions and commit to including our Industry representatives at the negotiating table. All licensed DFO lobster fishers in Nova Scotia are asking of the Minister of Fisheries is that all fishers fish under the same rules to ensure the sustainability of the species fished. I trust that you will do your utmost to find a peaceful solution for all parties.

Regards,

Wayne Malone
President
Barrington and Area chamber of Commerce

Terri Thomas
Vice-President
Barrington and Area Chamber of Commerce

Cc: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau
Hon. Bill Blair - Minister of Public Safety
Chris d'Entremont - MP West Nova
Colton LeBlanc - MLA Argyle-Barrington
Hon. Keith Coldwell - Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture
Warden Eddie Nickerson – Municipality of the District of Barrington
Mayor Leigh Stoddard – Town of Clarks Harbour