APR 29 2016

The Honourable Hunter Tootoo
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and
The Canadian Coast Guard
Government of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Tootoo:

Re: The Canadian Coast Guard
Comox Marine Communications and Traffic Services Centre

I am writing to you following the receipt of correspondence from a Powell River resident who is concerned about the pending closure of the Coast Guard’s Comox Marine Communications and Traffic Services Centre.

As British Columbia’s Minister of State for Emergency Preparedness, I believe it is critical that our province have a robust emergency response capacity, which includes marine emergency response. British Columbians need to know they can rely on the assistance of the Canadian Coast Guard during emergencies, whether they involve the rescue of boaters and other marine users in distress, or responding to spills and environmental threats. Recent events have highlighted the need to maintain reliable communications that support a swift marine response capacity.

The Province values the cooperative and beneficial relationship we have with the Canadian Coast Guard and its staff who work hard to keep our residents and waterways safe. I understand this matter is currently under review, and I ask that the safety and protection of our marine users, coastal communities and environment be given the highest priority during this process.

Sincerely,

Naomi Yamamoto
Minister of State for Emergency Preparedness

Copy to: Ken White, Powell River, British Columbia