



Government  
of Canada

Gouvernement  
du Canada

June 17, 2022

Christine Minney  
Cindy Wolf  
Jamie Stephens  
San Juan County Council

Peter Luckham,  
Chair  
Islands Trust Council

c/o Ingrid R. Gabriel  
[councilvm@sanjuanco.com](mailto:councilvm@sanjuanco.com)

Good day:

Thank you for your letter on January 26, 2022, regarding your request for an Emergency Towing Vessel in Sidney, British Columbia. We apologize for the delay in replying.

The Government of Canada is working to enhance marine safety through the Oceans Protection Plan. As you noted in your letter, this includes developing a National Strategy on Emergency Towing (NSET). One of the objectives of the NSET is to determine what emergency tow capacity is required both regionally and nationally. The strategy will consider regional needs, the perspectives of Indigenous peoples, partners and stakeholders, and lessons learned from the Atlantic Eagle and Atlantic Raven. Additionally, the strategy will be informed by a marine navigational risk assessment, among other inputs.

The Canadian Coast Guard is the lead federal agency for marine pollution incidents that fall within its mandate and works with stakeholders from federal and provincial agencies, Indigenous communities, and municipalities to respond to marine pollution incidents. To carry out its mandate effectively, the Coast Guard has trained personnel and equipment strategically located across Canada, including the Salish Sea, to assess, activate, and execute an effective response to a marine pollution incident.

Canada

We appreciate your interest in enhancing marine safety in Canada, as well as your time and efforts to collect the information and studies listed in your letter. The Government of Canada is aware of this work and these studies will be considered throughout the development of the NSET.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Omar Alhabra', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

The Honourable Omar Alhabra, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Transport

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joyce Murray', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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

c.c. The Honourable George Heyman, M.L.A.  
British Columbia's Minister of Environment and Climate Change