



Fisheries and Oceans
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Canadian
Coast Guard

Garde côtière
canadienne

JUL 10 2018

Assistant Commissioner
Western Region

Commissaire adjoint
Région de l'Ouest

Dear Mr. Luckham and Mr. Watson:

The Honourable Marc Garneau, Minister of Transport, has forwarded to the Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, a copy of your correspondence of May 31, 2018, regarding a standby rescue tug in Sidney, British Columbia. I have been asked to respond on the Minister LeBlanc's behalf.

Under the auspices of the Ocean Protection Plan, the Government of Canada will create a world-leading marine safety system that strengthens responsible shipping and protects Canadian waters through new preventive response measures such as provision of offshore emergency tow vessels.

These emergency towing vessels will address the immediate gap in offshore tow capacity responding to large commercial vessels disabled off the coast of British Columbia. Efforts are underway to lease two off-shore emergency tow vessels to provide this service in the near future. Once in operation, the emergency towing vessels will patrol the waters off the west coast Vancouver Island and the Haida Gwaii and Hecate straits and Dixon Entrance areas.

The Coast Guard is currently conducting a towing needs assessment to help understand and identify gaps and capabilities in the current coast-wide towing strategy. The Towing Needs Assessment is a review of all key documents, reports, and reviews that are trending in the industry on the west coast and lessons learned from similar international studies. The Coast Guard will engage and seek feedback from Indigenous peoples, stakeholders, academics, as well as industry and international partners on to seek views and concerns related to emergency towing on the west coast. The assessment will inform requirements for long term towing capacity on the coast of British Columbia. The Coast Guard has been provided a copy of your letter for consideration and inclusion in towing needs analysis.

Thank you for writing. I trust that my response has addressed your concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Roger Girouard
Assistant Commissioner
Western Region
Canadian Coast Guard

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