



*Rachel Blaney*

Member of Parliament  
North Island-Powell River

Campbell River, BC  
June 26, 2020

The Honourable Marc Garneau  
Minister of Transport  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

Re: Safety Regulations

Honourable Marc Garneau,

In my riding of North Island – Powell River, we have many smaller and remote communities that are only accessible by ferry. These communities depend on this service to not only provide essential travel and supplies, but also as a source of employment for many. During this time, I'm certain you can appreciate how truly invaluable this service is for our remote coastal communities.

In February 2020, BC Ferries secured two new vessels, *MV Island Aurora* and *MV Island Discovery* to replace the vessels serving the communities in my riding of Alert Bay, Sointula and Texada Island. Although these new vessels were welcomed by these communities to replace aged and outdated vessels, it's become apparent that they have also replaced safety standards and employment with the Minimum Safe Manning (MSM) decision your department approved on May 22, 2020 to reduce the crew size from 6-7 to 5 issued under the *Marine Personal Regulations (MPR)* and *The Canada Shipping Act*.

Since the first sailing of these new vessels in the beginning of June, 2020, I've heard from numerous constituents in these communities, seafarers, employees and union representatives surrounding their safety concerns due to the approved crew size of 5. With decreased crew size, they are unable to safely manage the vessels while meeting the requirements of the MPR. The concerns shared include their inability to carry out regular routine work, cleaning, maintenance, let alone respond to an emergency. Not only are the crew unable to meet the requirements of the MPR, they are unable to meet the current health and safety regulations in response to COVID-19. The workers are the experts and I support them fully. This is unacceptable.

*Ottawa*  
900 Justice Building  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6  
(613)992-2503

*Campbell River Office*  
427 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Campbell River, BC V9W 4E4  
1(800)667-8404  
[Rachel.Blaney@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Rachel.Blaney@parl.gc.ca)

*Powell River Office*  
4697 Marine avenue  
Powell River, BC V8A 2L2  
(604)489-2286



*Rachel Blaney*

Member of Parliament  
North Island-Powell River

As the Member of Parliament who represents rural and remote coastal communities, I encourage you to review this decision made within your Ministry and adjust the MSM decision to truly reflect the safety and economic concerns of the communities in which these vessels serve.

As one of my constituents said best, “please listen to our very reasonable request to provide us and the community with safe working conditions.”

I look forward to discussing this further with you.

Rachel Blaney,  
MP, North Island – Powell River

*Ottawa*

900 Justice Building  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6  
(613)992-2503

*Campbell River Office*

427 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Campbell River, BC V9W 4E4  
1(800)667-8404  
**Rachel.Blaney@parl.gc.ca**

*Powell River Office*

4697 Marine avenue  
Powell River, BC V8A 2L2  
(604)489-2286