



*Rachel Blaney*

Member of Parliament  
North Island-Powell River

The Honourable Bernadette Jordan  
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard

December 21, 2020

*Via Email*

**RE: Discovery Islands Fish Farms**

Dear Minister Jordan,

I respect the Nation-to-Nation consultations that have resulted in your recent decision to phase out existing salmon farming facilities in the Discovery Islands. This decision will have a deep impact in North Island—Powell River, which is home to most salmon fish farms in all of Canada, including those in the Discovery Islands.

Residents are worried because the decision creates uncertainty for fish farm workers. We do not know what will happen next and the unpredictability of the future has many people worried about their livelihoods and their survival. I share this concern.

Workers and communities who are affected by this decision need a strong plan.

That is why I have reached out to industry leaders and workers, as well as Mayors and councils, for discussions on next steps. Now is the time for us to work together to make plans that will facilitate this change to protect our wild salmon but to do so in a way that doesn't leave workers and their families struggling to make ends meet. My focus will be on finding ways to strengthen our work force in this sector. I will be reporting back to you the findings of my outreach.

I urge you and your government to ensure a plan is in place so that North Island—Powell River workers are protected from the uncertain impacts of your decision. As you stated in your decision, "Engagement...is critical to ensuring the transition is workable, economically feasible, and takes into account social impacts...".

I am heartened that you recognize it is not enough that you made the decision. Indeed, there is still more work to be done to discern what the future of this industry will look like for North Island—Powell River residents. Rural and remote communities have many challenges with diversifying our economies and we need the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to be an active member in the next steps.

I look forward to working with you to ensure no worker is left behind.

Sincerely,



Rachel Blaney, MP  
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