



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA



Rachel Blaney

Member of Parliament
North Island-Powell River

Rachel.Blaney@parl.gc.ca
<https://rachelblaney.ndp.ca/>

Ottawa

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

Campbell River Office

427 10th Avenue
Campbell River, BC V9W 4E4
(250) 287-9388
Toll free 1(800) 667-8404

Powell River Office

4683 Marine Avenue
Powell River, BC V8A 2L1
(604) 489-2286

April 28, 2023

To: Honourable Joyce Murray,
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and Coast Guard

Sent via email to: DFO.Minister-Ministre.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Dear Minister,

The closure of the federal wharf in Port McNeill has become an urgent situation that is having a significant economic impact on the community. It is my understanding that the federal wharf has been closed since March 2022 due to the need for repairs to two pilings, a repair that would take approximately one day to complete.

The community desperately needs to know what can be done to get those pilings repaired and the wharf reopened as there have now been numerous situations in which the wharf closure has impacted the community and local businesses.

Port McNeill Mayor James Furney informed me that the wharf is used by;

- Cruise ships, who use the wharf to unload people dealing with mobility or disability issues
- The Navy
- Vessels that come to Port McNeill for repairs and provisions
- Craft that service mainland communities

The wharf has been closed for too long with no valid explanation. Port McNeill reached out to Small Craft Harbours/DFO and were told an assessment was ongoing, but resources were taken up with Hurricane Fiona. I have also reached out to SCH/DFO and was advised they would look into the matter but have not received further response.

I trust you will agree with me that this matter is vital to the people of Port McNeill and the vessels that rely on that wharf. North Island small rural communities especially rely on these activities for meaningful economic contributions.

Please provide a response as to when SCH/DFO can schedule the repair of the wharf, so the community does not suffer further economic losses due to a situation they have no control over.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Blaney".

Rachel Blaney, MP
North Island – Powell River

Cc: Mayor James Furney, Port McNeill