

Nov. 29, 2019
The Honourable Mel Arnold
Member of Parliament North Okanagan-Shuswap
Mel.Arnold@parl.gc.ca

Dear Mr. Arnold

On behalf of the Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce, I want to congratulate you on being appointed the Official Opposition's Shadow Minister for Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard.

We agree that the fishing sector and the supply chains are a critical part of Canada's economy and particularly in rural regions along all three coasts. While ensuring there are policies that allow the industry to thrive, steps must also be taken to protect the nation's fish stocks for the future.

But beyond the coasts, we urge you to remain a strong advocate for the North Okanagan-Shuswap and particularly over the threat aquatic invasive species, such as quagga and zebra mussels, pose to our lakes, lifestyle and economy.

Our Chamber supported recommendations from the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans on aquatic invasive species, and we continue to call for increased resources for prevention programs, coordinating federal and provincial AIS strategies, and addressing regional funding gaps.

Once again, congratulations on being appointed Shadow Minister for Fisheries and Oceans and we look forward to working with you to ensure the interests of the North Okanagan-Shuswap are a priority with the Official Opposition and the Government.



Dione Chambers
General Manager
Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce