



Cheryl Gallant

Member of Parliament
Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke
Member of Standing Committee on National Defence
Member of Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology



HOUSE OF COMMONS
OTTAWA, CANADA

April 5th, 2019

Grand Forks Township
Po Box 220 7217 - 4th St.
Grand Forks, British Columbia
V0H 1H0

Dear Grand Forks Township,

This letter is to alert you to Bill C-68, another piece of interventionist federal legislation that will have a negative impact on your municipality, and on the property rights of your ratepayers.

Bill C-68, which is currently before the Senate, reverses changes to the Fisheries Act – changes which municipalities similar to yours requested our previous Conservative government to make.

Specifically, we amended the "HADD" provisions of the Act, (Harmful Alteration Disruption or Destruction of fish habitat).

One of the most significant problems identified by municipalities about the HADD provision was its broad application and restrictive nature, which ended up costing property taxpayers thousands of dollars, with no real or apparent benefit to the environment.

Municipalities which needed to install culverts or other flood mitigation work were in too many cases faced with negative enforcement after work was completed, with inconsistent guidance when they sought direction for compliance.

In addition to repealing our amendments, the current Federal Government has expanded the definition of "habitat," and added a new concept to the Act, "water flow."

By explicitly adding in the concept of water flow, which was not in the old legislation, the scope of offences municipalities can be charged with, have been greatly expanded.

Worst of all, rather than specifically listing what is and is not an offence under this legislation, including fines or jail, this power has been handed over to the unelected technocrats, to determine by regulation, what the penalties for non-compliance will be, after they have determined what is non-compliance.

As the longest consecutive serving Conservative MP in Ontario, representing a predominantly rural riding, I am very aware of the challenges rural and small-town municipalities have faced dealing with the Federal government.

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All municipalities should be demanding the Federal Government provide regulatory certainty before this legislation is passed into law.

Clear regulatory certainty is necessary to prevent the return of conflicted interpretations, and inconsistencies in enforcement of the Fisheries Act which happened in the past.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Cheryl Gallant". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and a stylized "G".

Cheryl Gallant, M.P.
Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke
CG:mm