



HAIDA NATION

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Transport
Canada

Transports
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February 22, 2022

Mr. Chad Allen
Director, Marine Operations
Shipping Federation of Canada
Suite 800
625 René-Lévesque Blvd West
Montréal, QC H3B 1R2

Mr. Bill Mckinstry
Director, West Coast Operations
Shipping Federation of Canada
Suite 300
1055 West Hastings St.
Vancouver, BC V6E 2E9

Dear Mr. Allen and Mr. Mckinstry,

We are pleased to be writing to you, on behalf of the Council of the Haida Nation and Transport Canada, to thank you for your participation, and that of the Shipping Federation of Canada, in the Trial Haida Gwaii Voluntary Protection Zone for Shipping (VPZ) from September 1, 2020 to October 31, 2021. Since the VPZ was launched, cargo and cruise ships are traveling at farther distances from the west coast of Haida Gwaii. This important shift in behaviour is contributing to greater environmental and cultural protection for Haida Gwaii.

We wish to recognise the value of your contributions to the trial – whether in the development and design of the VPZ, building consensus for its implementation, communicating and promoting awareness within your networks, or adapting the behaviour of your fleet to new routeing guidance. We recognise and appreciate your commitment to collaboration and cooperation in moving the VPZ from concept to practice.

Through our collective work on the VPZ, we have learned valuable lessons regarding collaboration between a range of maritime partners and stakeholders, as well as trans-boundary cooperation with US-based organisations. We've built important new relationships and fostered mutual understanding that will serve us well in the future. These partnerships enable a collaborative approach to managing waterways and joint decision-making – a crucial step on the path to reconciling the relationship between the Haida and Crown governments.

We thank you for your continuing support while the VPZ remains in place until further notice, and we look forward to ongoing dialogue regarding marine safety and environmental protection for Haida Gwaii and the West Coast.

Sincerely,

Gaagwiis Jason Alsop
President
Council of the Haida Nation

Robert Dick
Assistant Deputy Minister
Transport Canada, Pacific Region