

Local 2182

Coast Guard Marine Communications Officers
Officiers Communications Maritimes Garde Côtière

December 9, 2011

Honourable Keith Ashfield
Minister Fisheries and Oceans
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Subject: Reduction of staff at Coast Guard Marine Communications and Traffic Services Centers.

Dear Minister,

CAW Local 2182 represents marine communications and traffic services officers working for the Canadian Coast Guard. We have recently been informed that beginning in February 2012 Coast Guard will be reducing the number of staff on shift at 11 Marine Communications and Traffic Services centers in order to reduce overtime costs.

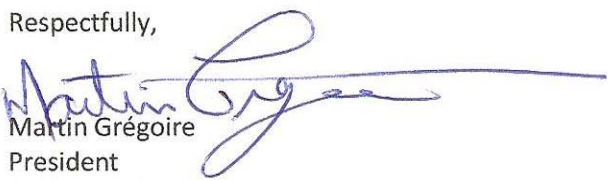
Our members provide distress, urgency and safety communications to mariners, regulate marine traffic to prevent collision and screen vessels entering our waters to protect the marine environment and ensure compliance with Canadian laws.

Reducing staff on shift at MCTS centers in addition to closing the two Marine Rescue centers in St-John's and Quebec City is taking unnecessary risk. Reduced staffing will create situations where distress calls or dangerous marine situations may be undetected possibly causing loss of life, collisions and polluting the marine environment.

We are writing to ask that the present level of staffing on shift be maintained.

We are available to meet and discuss our serious concerns with you and your staff.

Respectfully,


Martin Grégoire
President
CAW Local 2182

c.c. Mr. Marc Grégoire, Commissioner Canadian Coast Guard

Martin Grégoire

2412 route Carrier, Scott (Québec) G0S 3G0
Tel: (418) 387-3128 - Fax: (418) 386-3000 - Cell: (418) 564-2047
Email: gregoire@globetrotter.net