



UNION OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT
WORKERS

SYNDICAT DES TRAVAILLEURS DE LA SANTÉ ET
DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT

2781, ch. Lancaster Road, Suite 400 • Ottawa, Ontario • K1B 1A7

July 10, 2024

Diane Lebouthellier
Minister of Fisheries,
Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard

Dear Minister Lebouthellier;

On behalf of the members of the Union of Health and Environment Workers, and particularly our Fishery Officers, I am writing to express our deep disappointment that you have decided to make a public statement on the situation in Shelburne County, Nova Scotia prior to receiving the full results of the on-going investigation into this matter.

While we are all concerned about this situation, it is not helpful to the process to have your early intervention, setting up an external investigation of some sort, without receiving all of the facts regarding this matter. Your employees, especially your Fishery Officers, expected that you would at least listen to their side of the story before making your public statement. Once the internal review is complete, if it is deemed necessary to initiate an external review, UHEW would ask to be part of the committee to establish the investigative framework

Our Union and our members are committed to providing services to Canadians in a fair and even-handed manner and we will not tolerate any acts of racism or harassment of any member of the public we have the honour to serve. Your statement seems to imply something different. This will not serve to diffuse the situation and in fact may make matters worse. I look forward to your immediate response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shimen Fayad".

Shimen Fayad
National President
Union of Health and Environment Workers

cc. Deputy Minister Annette Gibbons