



# Cheryl Gallant

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



April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Sandy Beach Township  
Rr#1, Site 1, Comp 63  
Onoway, Alberta  
T0E 1V0

Dear Sandy Beach 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.

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 blue ink that reads "Cheryl Gallant". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.

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