



George Heyman
Minister of Environment
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C.

Fraser Voices
6911 Dunsany Place
Richmond, BC. V7C 4N8

March 5, 2020

Dear Hon. Minister Heyman:

Re: **State of Environmental Protection in the Fraser River Estuary.**

During the past decade the industrial development pressures are again building momentum in the Lower Fraser River and its estuary. Some terrible precedents were set by previous Federal and BC governments but to our dismay we see little action from present senior governments to re-establish some of the environmental assessment and protection measures that we could count on in the 1970's to 2010 time period to at least maintain the status quo.

A short listing of shortcomings in environmental assessments, high risk projects and inadequate government policies that are exposing the estuary to great risk and losses include:

1. Ottawa elimination of EA and protection legislation in 2012. Although restored in 2019, the Trudeau government is not implementing those legislation upgrades.
2. Absence of CEAA environmental assessments in past 10 years (exception RBT2).
3. Inadequate BC legislation, policy and BC EAO approach to EAs and protection measures.
4. Pending CEAA (now CAAA) decision on RBT2 area of mass destruction on Roberts Banks.
5. No federal EA and BC EAO exemption of Tilbury LNG from plant expansion EA.
6. No federal EA and BC EAO exemption of Lehigh Cement plant expansion and dock.
7. Questionable BC policy and approach on a new Massey crossing bridge or tunnel?
8. Port Vancouver conflict of interest - as a large industrial developer and assessor of impacts.
9. Questionable why BC EAO is taking EA lead on federally based resources and mandates.
10. Loss of FREMP and coordination delegated to Port Vancouver (wolf guarding the sheep?).
11. No proper cumulative impact assessments and failure to manage estuary as an ecosystem.
12. Plans for greatly increased bitumen (dilbit) and jet fuel shipping across and into the estuary

This list could go on and on and can be best described in a manuscript but that is hardly necessary. Suffice to say, a large portion of our communities in the Fraser Delta feel

government is treating the estuary as simply an industrial commodity and proper environmental assessments, protection and management is not getting the attention and respect our still vast fish and wildlife populations and our quality of life and true environmental sustainability deserves.

Considering our degree of unhappiness with the state of environmental protection initiatives in the Fraser Estuary we urgently request an early meeting with you to go over some of the issues facing the living resources and their habitats and our quality of life in this critical waterway. We would like to know what plans does your ministry and government have to deal with a problem that we felt was last properly addressed in the 1980s.

We please ask for your early response to our request in that many projects are moving ahead at a rapid pace. We can wither meet with you in your constituency office or at any location in Metro Vancouver. To make arrangements, please have your staff contact De Whalen at <email address removed> or Paul Magnus at <email address removed>.

Sincerely yours,

<original signed by>

Otto E. Langer Chair Fraser Voices Society.