



MR. R.J. SIMPSON
MLA, HAY RIVER NORTH

JAN 10 2019

**Oral Question 464-18(3) Assistant Commissioner of Canadian Coast Guard
Arctic Region Position**

This letter is in follow-up to the Oral Question you raised on October 29, 2018, regarding the new Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) Arctic region, and the new Assistant Commissioner of the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) position that has been based in Yellowknife. I committed to having discussions with DFO on this matter, including their long-term plans for operations, the new position, and providing an update to Members.

Staff from the Department of Infrastructure recently met the new Assistant Commissioner to learn more about the implementation plans, and what this means for marine operations in the NWT. The Assistant Commissioner expressed his commitment to engage and build relationships in the surrounding region in order to better understand stakeholder priorities.

To date there has been no indication that the federal government is considering moving the current CCG base and positions out of Hay River. Those positions are required to support operational activities in the NWT. It appears that the Assistant Commissioner position based in Yellowknife is an incremental position focused on administrative duties.

I will keep Members apprised of any new understandings stemming from future engagements and discussions with our federal partners.

Wally Schumann
Minister
Infrastructure

c. Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Legislative Coordinator
Executive and Indigenous Affairs