



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

AUG - 7 2019

**Oral Question 732-18(3) Dredging the Hay River**

This letter is in follow-up to the Oral Question raised on May 28, 2019 regarding dredging the Hay River. I committed to provide you with further information on this matter once I had spoken to my federal counterpart.

I can confirm that on June 13, 2019, I had a phone conversation with the Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard. We discussed the importance of restoring Hay River Harbour and other initiatives in support of marine operations in the Northwest Territories (NWT) such as icebreaking support and remote federal marine resupply sites.

In follow-up to this meeting, I sent Minister Wilkinson a letter to clarify the issues we discussed and proposed that the time has come for action on Hay River Harbour in order to reduce risk to equipment and environment, to avoid the interruption of essential resupply activities, and to maintain safe and secure commercial marine shipping operations in the Western Arctic.

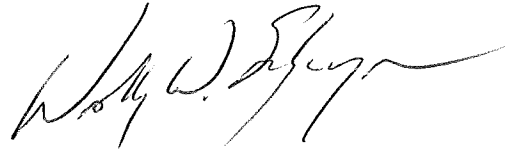
Under my direction, Department of Infrastructure (INF) officials have reached out to the Assistant Commissioner of the Canadian Coast Guard's Arctic Region to provide further details on this matter, including a proposal for joint action on the harbour restoration. Our success depends upon a shared approach to address these responsibilities.

While we have not yet had received a response, we understand one is forthcoming.

Marine safety and security of marine resupply are of vital importance to the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT). I will continue to press the federal government on the importance to work with us to find solutions.

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Thank you for your continued advocacy for dredging the Hay River. This matter continues to be a priority for the GNWT and updates on progress will be provided to Members as they become available.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wally Schumann', with a stylized, flowing script.

Wally Schumann  
Minister  
Infrastructure

c. Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Legislative Coordinator  
Executive and Indigenous Affairs