

## SAMPLE LETTER FOR YOUR M.P.

*The following letter was adapted by Canadian Freshwater Alliance supporter, and Freelance Writer, Joanne Light.*

Dear [M.P.'s name],

I am writing to ask you to support four simple amendments to the proposed Bill C-69 (which amends three of Canada's significant environmental laws). Presently this proposed legislation does not adequately protect areas related to "navigable waters." If this bill continues to be pushed through committee hearings at an unprecedented rate (as is happening now), this area of concern will pass without adequate review and improvement.

When the laws were changed between 2009 and 2012, navigable waters lost important protections in the form of environmental assessment triggers and federal approval for all developments that could impede navigation.

The new legislation *does* reinstate the required approval for major works on navigable waters (which is an improvement). But, the act stops short of protecting the environmental, social, and cultural value of *all* navigable waters. You may recall the controversial "Schedule of Waters," a list of 164 water bodies that received protections under the act. It *has* survived proposed amendments. Now many developments on waters not listed in the "Schedule..." can bypass federal approval by simply issuing a public notice of the intended "medium" work. If no public interest is voiced in this period, then a project can proceed with no additional federal approval. We can do better than this for Canada's iconic waterways by adding these four amendments to strengthen and truly protect all navigable waters:

- Require the consideration of environmental impacts in all approval decisions.
- Require all non-minor projects on all navigable waters to undergo federal approval
- Track the cumulative impact of all projects (including minor works) via a publicly accessible online registry.
- Enable shared decision-making with Canada's First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples on all navigable waters, especially those crossing their traditional territories.