



**Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.**

Prime Minister of Canada  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A2  
Via email : pm@pm.gc.ca

April 3, 2024

Prime Minister,

We are concerned regarding the inaction of your government to address the threats posed by aquatic invasive species (AIS), particularly zebra and quagga mussels (ZQM), to the aquatic habitats and ecosystems of Canada.

Harms inflicted by AIS on aquatic resources and communities where ZQM have taken hold are well documented. In Western Canada, the threat of this invading species will affect wild fish populations like Pacific salmon, lake trout, rainbow trout, and kokanee salmon, and ZQM stimulate toxic algae blooms that kill migratory birds and contaminate drinking water.

Your inaction also hurts our local economies. Ongoing maintenance to remove ZQM from in-water infrastructure continues to cost Canadians and this invading species is degrading the quality of shoreline environments for human enjoyment. In the Great Lakes region alone, the annual cost of managing these invasive mussels exceeds \$500 million per year.

ZQM continue to move westward across Canada and north from the United States, encroaching ever closer to Western Canadian waters. If you continue to turn a blind eye to these ongoing failures, Western Canada will soon face an irreversible invasion of ZQM that will permanently damage more ecosystems and economies beyond the Great Lakes.

Your Minister of Fisheries and Oceans has a mandate to sustainably manage fisheries and ensure aquatic ecosystems are protected from harms such as those caused by ZQM. The Public Safety Minister through the Canada Border Services Agency is mandated to ensure invasive mussels are not imported into Canada. Despite these responsibilities for protecting Canada's freshwaters from invasive mussels, your ministers continue to fail to deliver their mandates.

This has been confirmed by the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development (CESD) in a 2019 report which shows your ministers have neglected our front-line enforcement officers and failed to take proper steps to stop the spread of invasive species.

Since 2016, common sense Conservatives have repeatedly pleaded for your government to prevent the spread of ZQM. We have joined voices with conservation organizations, municipalities, and water management agencies, but you and your ministers have ignored them, and the problem faced by our communities.

We call on your government to finally prioritize resources and initiate urgent, immediate actions necessary to prevent permanent ecological and economic damages that will be inflicted if your government continues in its failure to provide the leadership required to protect our waters.

Now is the time for focused and effective leadership and actions to protect our waters.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



**Mel Arnold, M.P.**  
North Okanagan-  
Shuswap



**Marc Dalton, M.P.**  
Pitt Meadows—Maple  
Ridge



**Len Webber, M.P.**  
Calgary Confederation



**Kevin Waugh, M.P.**  
Saskatoon-Grasswood



**Larry Maguire, M.P.**  
Brandon-Souris



**Martin Shields, M.P.**  
Bow River



**Hon. Don Plett**  
Senator for Manitoba



**Hon. Ed Fast, PC, KC, MP**  
Abbotsford



**Hon. Tim Uppal, M.P.**  
Edmonton Mill Woods



**Blaine Calkins, M.P.**  
Red Deer-Lacombe



**Dan Albas, M.P.**  
Central Okanagan-  
Similkameen- Nicola



**Rob Morrison, M.P.**  
Kootenay-Columbia



**Tracy Gray, M.P.**  
Kelowna- Lake Country



**John Barlow, M.P.**  
Foothills



**Brad Redekopp, M.P.**  
Saskatoon West



**Stephanie Kusie, M.P.**  
Calgary Midnapore



**Glen Motz, M.P.**  
Medicine Hat- Cardston-  
Warner



**Dan Mazier, M.P.**  
Dauphin-Swan River-  
Neepawa



**Warren Steinley, M.P.**  
Regina-Lewvan



**Tako Van Popta, M.P.**  
Langley-Aldergrove



**Earl Dreeschen, M.P.**  
Red Deer-Mountain View



**Gary Vidal, M.P.**  
Desnethé-Missinippi-  
Churchill River



**James Bezan, M.P.**  
Selkirk-Interlake-Eastman



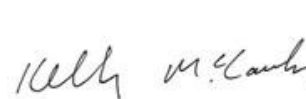
**Rachael Thomas, M.P.**  
Lethbridge



**Kelly Block, M.P.**  
Carlton Trail- Eagle Creek



**Laila Goodridge, M.P.**  
Fort McMurray- Cold  
Lake



**Kelly McCauley, M.P.**  
Edmonton West



**Cathay Wagantall M.P.**  
Yorkton-Melville



**Gerald Soroka, M.P.**  
Yellowhead



**Michael Kram, M.P.**  
Regina- Wascana



**Ted Falk, M.P.**  
Provencher



**Dane Lloyd, M.P.**  
Sturgeon River- Parkland



**Damien Kurek, M.P.**  
Battle River- Crowfoot



**Ziad Aboultaif, M.P.**  
Edmonton Manning



**Greg McLean, M.P.**  
Calgary Centre



**Ron Liepert, M.P.**  
Calgary Signal Hill



**Mike Lake, M.P.**  
Edmonton- Wetaskiwin



**Shuvaloy Majumdar, M.P.**  
Calgary Heritage



**Garnett Genuis, M.P.**  
Sherwood Park-  
Fort Saskatchewan



**Rosemarie Falk, M.P.**  
Battlefords- Lloydminster



**Branden Leslie, M.P.**  
Portage-Lisgar



**Arnold Viersen, M.P.**  
Peace River- Westlock



**Michael Cooper, M.P.**  
St. Albert- Edmonton

**Robert Kitchen, M.P.**  
Souris—Moose  
Mountain

Cc: Hon. George Heyman, British Columbia Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy  
Hon. Rebecca Schulz, Alberta Minister of Environment and Protected Areas  
Hon. RJ Sigurdson, Alberta Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation  
Hon. Christine Tell, Saskatchewan Minister of Environment  
Hon. Jamie Moses, Manitoba Minister of Economic Development, Investment, Trade and Natural Resources  
Union of BC Municipalities  
Okanagan Basin Water Board  
Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society  
Shuswap Watershed Council  
Fraser Basin Council  
Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society  
B.C. Wildlife Federation  
Association of Alberta Municipalities  
Rural Municipalities of Alberta  
Alberta Invasive Species Council  
Alberta Irrigation Districts Association  
Canadian Prairie Chapter Irrigation Association  
Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association  
Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities  
Saskatchewan Irrigation Projects Association  
Saskatchewan Invasive Species Council  
Association of Manitoba Municipalities  
Invasive Species Council of Manitoba  
Electricity Canada