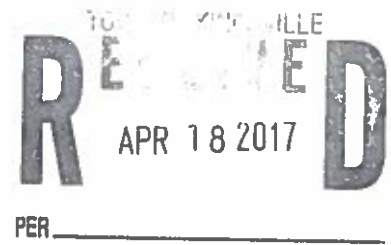




The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh Office of the Mayor

April 12, 2017

Honourable Ralph Goodale, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6



Dear Minister Goodale,

I am writing to you regarding the April 5, 2017 CBC News Report on Canadian boaters and paddlers urged to get NEXUS card, Minimum fine for failing to report to the CBSA upon entry to Canada is \$1,000 and to express concerns from local residents in this regard.

In particular, CBC reports: Boaters planning to float down the Detroit River are being warned to notify officials if they cross the invisible border before coming back to Canada. The caution comes courtesy of a new interpretation of the "in transit exemption," according to former commodore of the Windsor Power and Sail Squadron, Alan Johnson.

The CBC also reports: Word of the change comes after a recent meeting between Windsor boaters, RCMP and officials from both sides of the border where Windsor residents expressed confusion over the rules. In a statement sent to CBC, the CBSA said failure to report returning to Canada could lead to detention, seizure of a boat or a hefty fine. "The minimum fine for failing to report to the CBSA upon entry to Canada is \$1, 000," the statement said. Johnson said Canada's regulations are actually more strict than those of the Americans, who only expect boaters to check in if they drop anchor in the U.S. or come ashore.

Minister, what is the rationale for the sudden and high-handed change in the interpretation of the in-transit exemption by the Federal Government?

Our region enjoys a unique, international waterway and has the largest number per capita of recreational boaters and pleasure craft than any other region in Canada, along with a significant recreational fishing economy. It would appear that this action is nothing more than a \$50 tax grab by the Federal Government by requiring local residents, out for a pleasure cruise or fishing with their grandkids, to purchase a NEXUS card when they have little need for the card and have no intent on anchoring or going ashore in the U.S.

It is also very disturbing to hear the Government of Canada threatening local residents with severe penalties if they don't make a CBSA call-in every time they happen to zig-zag their jet ski, paddle their kayak or unintentionally float or sail across the invisible, international border line while enjoying a day out on our unique, international waterway. This is clearly a matter of policy getting in the way of common sense.

For generations, local residents have been exempted from such requirements along the most safe and peaceful, international border in the world. What is the rationale for the Government of Canada's sudden decision to change the way it treats Canadians from how the U.S. Government treats their citizens, in this same regard?

I also inquire as to whether this new interpretation of the in-transit exemption is being applied in a similar manner to all Canadian waterways bordering the U.S.?

I look forward to hearing back from you at your earliest opportunity.

Sincerely,



Gary McNamara
Mayor

CC. Mayor Drew Dilkens, City of Windsor
Mayor Aldo DiCarlo, Town of Amherstburg
Mayor Ron McDermott, Town of Essex
Mayor Nelson Santos, Town of Kingsville
Mayor Tom Bain, Town of Lakeshore
Mayor Ken Antaya, Town of LaSalle
Mayor John Paterson, Municipality of Leamington
Mayor Randy Hope, Municipality of Chatham-Kent
Mayor Mike Bradley, City of Sarnia
Lynn Dollin, President, Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Clark Somerville, President, Federation of Canadian Municipalities

