

Minister of  
Fisheries and Oceans

Ministre des  
Pêches et des Océans

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0P6

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Ms. Irène Léger  
P.O. Box 24  
Plympton, Nova Scotia  
B0W 2R0

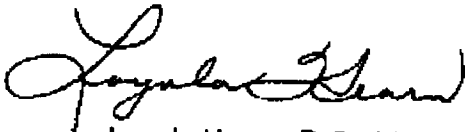
Dear Ms. Léger:

Thank you for your letter of August 29, 2007, regarding the proposed basalt rock quarry on Digby Neck. I appreciate the issues you raise concerning this matter, and I regret the delay in responding. I have heard many concerns from people in the Digby Neck area about the quarry, and its potential impact on the unique landscape of the Neck.

The Joint Panel Report (JPR) was made available to the public on October 23, 2007. The report sets out the rationale, conclusions and recommendations of the Panel relating to the environmental assessment of the project. Fisheries and Oceans Canada, as a responsible authority under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, along with the other involved federal government departments, will now consider the Panel's report and provide a coordinated Government of Canada Response to the JPR. I would like to emphasize that our government takes its responsibility for environmental protection very seriously. We will review the Panel's findings very carefully before taking a decision.

I note the concerns you raised. Thank you for bringing them to my attention.

Sincerely,



Loyola Hearn, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: The Honourable John Baird, P.C., M.P.  
The Honourable Lawrence Cannon, P.C., M.P.  
The Honourable Maxime Bernier, P.C., M.P.

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