

**PETITION**

We, the undersigned residents of Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada, draw the attention of the House of Commons to the following:

**THAT** the Government of Canada made a hasty and uninformed announcement to close the Maritime Rescue Sub-centre (Centre) in St John’s, Newfoundland and Labrador and to move search-and-rescue operations to Halifax, NS and Trenton, ON;

**THAT** there is an extremely high level of marine activity off the coast of Newfoundland and Labrador, including some 10,000 fish harvesters at sea; hundreds of people on oil drilling, exploration and production facilities; and many others on all types of transatlantic and commercial shipping vessels that all require the expertise of our Centre in St John’s, NL;

**THAT** the Centre is responsible for 900,000 square kilometers of ocean, 28,956 kilometers of coastline and has the highest proportion of distress incidents of any place in Canada;

**THAT** combined the experience of the 12 rescue coordinators, the Centre has over 100 years of experience in gathering, analyzing and coordinating information to execute a search and rescue mission that often involves life and death decisions; as well the Centre integrates with the maritime community to identify key safety issues, accident prevention and incident reduction;

**THAT** the rescue coordinators have the ability to deal with the unique challenges involved in contending with some of the most hostile weather and ice conditions in the world;

**THAT** the people of Newfoundland and Labrador have a right to and deserve first-class search and rescue capabilities and coordination; and the estimated savings of one million dollars annually is highly questionable and in this case it is not worth the risk;

**THEREFORE**

In light of the historic and recent marine tragedies - the Ocean Ranger, Cougar 491, Ryan’s Commander, Melina and Keith II, to name but a few of the accidents and fatalities unique to Newfoundland and Labrador, that your petitioners request that the Parliament of Canada reverse its untimely decision and immediately reinstate the Maritime Rescue Sub-centre in St John’s, NL.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Signatures**

(Sign your name. Do not print)

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**Addresses**

(Give your full home address or your city and province)

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