

# N.L. MHA wants tugboat rules enforced by feds

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[CBC News](#)



*A tugboat drifts outside the North Atlantic Refinery in Placentia Bay along Newfoundland and Labrador's southeastern coast. (CBC)*

A member of Newfoundland and Labrador's Opposition says more pressure should be put on Ottawa to protect the province's southeastern coast.

The call by N.L. house member Kelvin Parsons comes after CBC News learned that Transport Canada has quietly relaxed the rules surrounding the number of crew members on tugboats used by the North Atlantic Oil Refinery in Placentia Bay.

The bay is home to a trans-shipment terminal at Whiffen Head, which processes oil from the Grand Banks.

According to a director with the province's Fish, Food and Allied Workers Union, Transport Canada regulations for the refinery have been changed from four crew to two.

Parsons said Environment Minister Charlene Johnson is taking too long to act.

"I guess we can be thankful that she's awake and that she at least realizes she should call the Ottawa people and find out what's going on here," said Parsons.

While Johnson says Ottawa isn't obligated to say anything, she feels the province should be kept in the loop.

"They're not required to inform us, but certainly keeping the lines of communication open is something that I'm going to mention to Minister Baird. It's something that we try to work together on all the time. It didn't happen in this case and I want to voice my concern about that," said Johnson.