



The Honourable Catherine McKenna PC MP, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities

The Honourable Navdeep Bains PC MP, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry

Friday, 16, October 2020

Dear Minister McKenna and Minister Bains,

Re: **Major Canadian Advance in Spilled Oil Recovery Capability Reduces Cost While Improving Outcome**

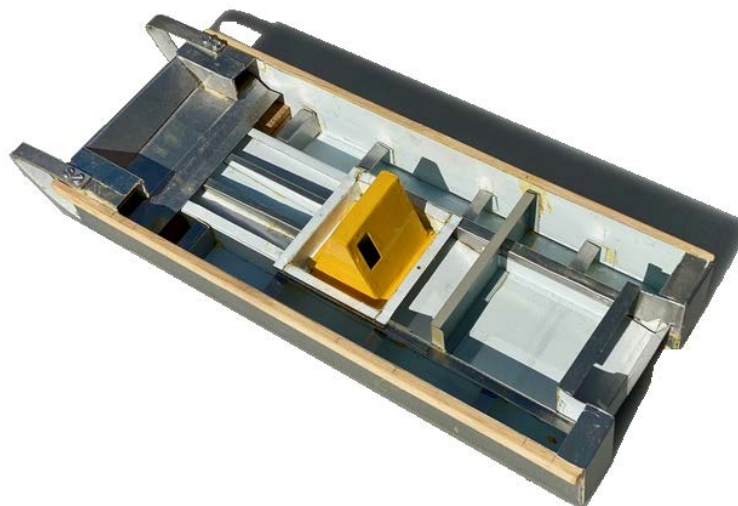
This letter is addressed to both of you, since it pertains as much to coastal infrastructure as to innovation.

While our company, RESTCo, appreciates that the Canadian government has invested in expansion of Canada's oil spill response measures, we submit that the initiatives so far taken have missed two critical opportunities to cost-effectively protect our coasts from the devastation of oil pollution.

- 1) To enable fast response, it is vital to recognize the vested interest and capability embedded in coastal communities.
- 2) The current oil spill response process inhibits innovation in oil-recovery techniques, especially in terms of empowering coastal communities. Governments have largely presumed that the existing technologies are the best available, without providing a rationale for this opinion, and thus have limited consideration of effective alternatives.

In conversation with staff at one of Canada's currently certified spill Response Organizations, we have been encouraged to work on this gap that they perceive in the current response regime. RESTCo is asking for support for the following project that will respond to the above two opportunities:

- 1) A public review comparing the advantages of (a) equipping coastal communities with inexpensive, highly innovative oil-recovery workboats, with (b) the status quo spill response capability. Critical participants in this comparison would be those who are most vulnerable to spill damages (such as the indigenous community in Bella Bella impacted by the *Nathan E. Stewart* spill).
- 2) If the rationale for the concept described below stands objective scrutiny, then funding would be provided to build two prototype workboats that employ gravity oil recovery technology among their multiple capabilities. The budget for this would be \$1M under a shared program with RESTCo.





RESTCo (Remote Energy Security Technologies Collaborative)

48 Tarquin Crescent, Nepean, ON K2H 8J8

restco.ca

The Canadian-patented core technology that uses gravity separation for oil recovery has been proven at full-scale to be highly effective in US Government independent tests.

The concept of our innovation is to incorporate this separation technology into a boat design that would be adopted by a large proportion of coastal communities for routine activities, while enabling them to use their local knowledge and motivation to respond more quickly than is now typically the case. Speed of response is the essence of preventing exponential spread of oil and contamination of shorelines. When a spill exceeds the capacity of a community to deal with, the rapid help of similarly equipped neighbouring communities could be called upon, as well as that of the incumbent regional spill Response Organization.

In particular, because of its multiple uses through a unique hull configuration, this boat would serve many aspects of Coastal Infrastructure. Volume production of these boats in Canada would result in job creation in Canada's aluminum boat building industry as the market both in Canada and abroad developed.

The vessel design, with its capacity to serve so many purposes, is a truly innovative and exciting solution to providing oil-spill response with greater success than the current inadequate system. We would welcome the opportunity to validate our assumptions in real oil spills and to show that some current assumptions are not valid. Improving the spill response capability would fill the near-shore urgent-response gap.

We respectfully ask that this letter be directed to the government department or departments that would be in a position to objectively assess its merits.

We seek your guidance on how best to proceed, in order to enhance the protection of Canada's waters, provide a new Canadian marine manufacturing initiative, and greatly reduce the cost of oil spills to the Canadian Government and the oil and shipping industries.

We are more than willing to expand on the rationale for this request. As a starting point, we direct you to <https://www.restco.ca/near-shore-spill-recovery.shtml>.

Sincerely,

Peter Russell P.Eng.
President and CEO RESTCo
613-744-6784
peter@restco.ca
48 Tarquin Crescent
Nepean, Ontario K2H 8J8



CC

Federal Parliament

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada

Hon. Jean-Yves Duclos, President of the Treasury Board

Hon. Marc Garneau, Minister of Transport

Hon. Mary Ng, Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Environment and Climate Change

Hon. Bernadette Jordan, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard

Hon. Anita Anand, Minister of Public Services and Procurement

Hon. Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Canadian Heritage

Hon. Marc Miller, Minister of Indigenous Services

Hon. Dan Vandal, Minister of Northern Affairs

Erin O'Toole, Leader of the Opposition

Yves-François Blanchet, Leader of Le Bloc québécois

Jagmeet Singh, Leader of the New Democratic Party

Elizabeth May

Jenica Atwin

Paul Manly

Jody Wilson-Raybould

Sameer Zuberi

Provincial Parliaments

BC Hon. John Horgan, Premier

Sonia Fursteneau Leader of the BC Green Party

AB Hon. Jason Kenney, Premier

Hon. Jason Nixon, Minister of Environment and Parks

QC Hon. François Legault, Premier

Hon. Benoît Charette, Minister of the Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change

NB Hon. Blaine Higgs, Premier

Hon. Gary Crossman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change

NS Hon. Stephen McNeil, Premier

Hon. Gordon Wilson, Minister of Environment

NL Hon. Andrew Furey, Premier

Hon. Derek Bennett, Minister of Environment, Climate Change, and
Municipalities

PEI Hon. Dennis King, Premier

Hon. Natalie Jameson, Minister of Environment, Water and Climate Change

Indigenous peoples

Perry Bellegarde, Chief of the Assembly of First Nations

Natan Obed, President of the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami

Other

Annamie Paul, Leader of the Green Party of Canada