

His/Her Worship Mayor,

I'm writing to you on behalf of Nature Canada's ocean protection team with an opportunity to help create positive change for your community, and the natural world we all rely on.

Canada has the longest coastline in the world. With it comes the duty to be leaders in protecting and restoring the ocean. As part of the Global Deal for Nature in the Paris Accords, our government **has promised to protect 30 percent of oceans by 2030** through establishing Marine Protected Areas. In 2015 only one percent of Canadian oceans were protected. But as of 2020, due advocacy by Canadians like you, nearly 14 percent of the world's oceans are now safeguarded for generations to come.

Municipalities can be powerful change agents in the goal to protect 30 percent of the world's oceans by 2030. We have seen this leadership in action in combating climate change, when cities and towns across the world stepped up to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and pressured federal governments to do the same. Whether on the coast or far inland, municipalities rely on ocean ecosystems for seafood production, climate regulation, and the preservation of unique and beautiful animals and ecosystems.

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Reaching our ocean protection goal will help us win the fight against global warming. Municipalities are on the front lines of climate change and feel effects firsthand, from extreme heat to extreme precipitation. The oceans play a pivotal role counteracting climate change as the largest carbon sink, providing more than half our oxygen while storing fifty times more carbon than the atmosphere. Oceans also regulate weather, helping to balance the uneven distribution of solar radiation.

Here's why we need you: Your voice as a municipality can influence national governments and have a direct effect on the quality of life for your residents. It's as easy as having the council pass the attached resolution. By taking this simple step, you will be helping our policy team show government officials that Canadians support National Marine Protected Areas and encourage them to implement effective policies.

It would mean a great deal to us if you could sign on to help secure a future for our generation and the generations to come.

In solidarity with you and with our natural world,

Paul Gregory
Senior Oceans Campaigner

Nature Canada is one of the oldest national nature conservation charities in Canada. For 80 years, we've helped protect over 110 million acres of parks and wildlife areas in Canada and countless species. Today, Nature Canada represents a network of over 130,000 members and supporters, guided by more than 1,200 nature organizations.