



May 14, 2019

Ken McDonald
Chair, Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. McDonald,

I am writing on behalf of the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) to highlight Alberta's challenges with Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and provide input to the Study of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) National Aquatic Invasive Species Program.

Founded in 1905, AUMA is a solution-based membership organization that provides a unified voice for Alberta's urban municipalities. Our membership includes cities, towns, villages, summer villages and specialized municipalities that represent 86 percent of Alberta's population.

AIS concerns Alberta municipalities, especially the invasive species of zebra and quagga mussels, because of the harm they can cause to local water bodies, municipal infrastructure, and private property. The estimated economic impacts of AIS across Alberta are over \$75 million annually.

At the 2014 AUMA Convention, members passed a [resolution](#) urging the provincial government to enact mandatory inspections to ensure that dreissenid mussel aquatic invasive species do not invade Alberta. It was further resolved to urge the funding of an awareness campaign on the risk of the species entering the province and preventative measures boaters must take to eliminate the risk. The Government of Alberta acted on our recommendations by amending the fisheries legislation, which enacted mandatory inspections of boats and watercraft that are transported into Alberta.

AUMA has always believed that the best approach to prevent AIS is a regional approach with support from both provincial and federal orders of government. For example, the Governments of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba are working together to increase watercraft inspections at provincial borders. Yukon Territory is also a partner in enhancing regional coordination in keeping Western Canada mussel free. Nevertheless,

our members continue to observe the lack of action and support from the federal government despite the fact that that provincial and local governments are working together on this.

We are pleased to see that your committee is now studying the National Aquatic Invasive Species Program. The lack of awareness of the national program in Alberta and support from the federal government is noticeable among AUMA members. Making national resources available is one improvement that the program must make to help prevent aquatic invasive species in Western Canada.

I am available to appear as a witness for the study on the National Aquatic Invasive Species Program, please let me know the availability by email president@auma.ca.

Sincerely,

Barry Morishita
AUMA President

cc. Ms. Nancy Vohl, Clerk
Mr. Mel Arnold, MP North Okanagan – Shuswap