

# Bulletin

August 2023

## Diane Lebouthillier Appointed New Fisheries Minister

On July 26, 2023, Diane Lebouthillier, Member of Parliament for Gaspésie—Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine in Quebec since 2015 and former Minister of National Revenue, was announced as the new Minister of Fisheries, Oceans, and the Canadian Coast Guard.

During her time as Minister of National Revenue, Minister Lebouthillier notably oversaw the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), which managed the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prior to entering politics, Minister Lebouthillier spent over 23 years in social services at the Rocher-Percé Health and Social Services Centre.

On July 25, 2023, now former Minister of Fisheries, Oceans, and the Canadian Coast Guard, Joyce Murray, announced she would not seek reelection.

“It has been a privilege to advance work in tackling climate change, nature conservation and improving the lives of Canadians, and I look forward to continue engaging with these challenges,” Murray wrote on Twitter.

“After much thought and reflection, I have decided not to run again in the next election after my current term.”

As the new Minister of Fisheries, Oceans, and the Canadian Coast

Guard, Lebouthillier will be responsible for overseeing fisheries management and making decisions that directly impact fish harvesters and coastal communities.

“Our members currently face many serious issues, including widespread fisheries closures that are not rooted in science, unwarranted fishing delays, lack of financial and transitional support, foreign

ownership of Canadian commercial fishing licenses and quota, and more,” UFAWU-Unifor President James Lawson says.

“We look forward to working closely with Minister Lebouthillier to address the critical challenges faced by fish harvesters and ensure their voices are heard. We are hopeful for a highly productive relationship.”



New Fisheries Minister Diane Lebouthillier

## New Regional Director General for Pacific Region Appointed

Susan Chambers has been appointed as the new Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) Regional Director General for Pacific Region.

The Regional Director General is responsible for the planning, management, and delivery of the Department's programs and services in the Pacific Region.

The Pacific Region is facing a barrage of complex challenges related to license policy, MPA development, reconciliation, lack of

science-based rationale in decision-making, and the socio-economic impacts on harvesters and coastal communities that are directly related to those challenges.

UFAWU-Unifor Staff and Leadership look forward to meeting with the new Regional Director to discuss these most urgent and current fisheries issues in the Pacific Region.

The Union is eager to open and maintain a direct line of communication in order to contribute as a reliable source of accurate and timely information in support of the work which the Regional Director will be engaged in.

## List of Gov. Programs for Seafood Sector Available

An updated list of government funding programs that are available to the Seafood Sector has been published

by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

The list includes a number of programs which those working in the commercial fishing industry could be eligible for.

To view a copy of the updated list, go to [UFAWU-Unifor.org](http://UFAWU-Unifor.org).

## Navigating Registration Card Issues

UFAWU-Unifor has become aware of critical issues pertaining to the Fisher's Registration Card (FRC) process.

Some UFAWU-Unifor members have encountered an error when logging into their FRC accounts in which the option to pay their necessary FRC fees is missing.

If you log into your FRC account and the payment option is missing, we recommend taking the following steps:

1. In your NOLS account, click on the "Submit Request" tab.
2. From the drop-down menu at the top, select "FRC."
3. In the available text box, write "URGENT — UPLOAD PAY FEES OPTION"
4. Click the submit button at the bottom of the page.

After completing the above steps, we recommend sending

an email to the fishing-peche account. In the email header, write "PACIFIC REGION — URGENT FRC REQUEST."

In the body of the email, explain that your FRC does not have the pay fees option available. Additionally, include your name, birth date, and FIN if you have it.

Union members have also reported delays in their FRC applications. According to DFO, these delays are the result of incorrect or incomplete FRC documentation being uploaded by users.

To avoid delays, it is very important that all FRC documents are submitted correctly.

DFO offers three step-by-step guides for obtaining an FRC — select the guide that applies to you and follow the instructions.

Links to FRC information for new entrants to commercial fishing, those returning who last held an FRC in 2007 and earlier, and those returning who last held an FRC after 2007 can all be found at [UFAWU-Unifor.org](http://UFAWU-Unifor.org).



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