



**BILL WALKER, MPP**  
Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound

The Hon. Glen Murray  
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure  
Ferguson Block  
3rd Floor  
77 Wellesley St W  
Toronto ON M7A1Z8

March 6, 2014

Dear Minister Murray:

As you heard during yesterday's debate on Bill 141, *Infrastructure for Jobs and Prosperity Act*, I'm contacting you to voice my support in obtaining funding assistance to build a Marine Emergency Duties (MED) training facility at the Owen Sound campus of Georgian College.

I have previously and on numerous occasions written to the ministers of Training, Colleges and Universities, and Economic Development to seek their support for Georgian College's continued role in the delivery of MED training. I have also voiced my concern with the fact that if the training is not retained, it could threaten the future of the college, and subsequently result in direct and indirect job losses in our region.

On a positive note, and to the best of my understanding, MTCU has expressed support for this proposal, and its deputy minister has accompanied Georgian College officials in meetings with Transportation Canada, as well as they were instrumental in helping to secure a one-time investment of \$500,000 to transfer training equipment to Owen Sound. While I'm very pleased about this past support, I believe that we need to do more with regard to securing its long-term sustainability in Ontario.

With the recent closure of Port Colborne's training facility, Ontario – bounded by the Great Lakes – faces a loss of critical training opportunities in Marine Emergency Duties and marine firefighter training. The combined losses ultimately threaten the safety, security and sustainability of our province's marine industry, and consequently the businesses and people who depend on it.



In an effort to protect our marine opportunities in the future, I again ask for your support in obtaining funding assistance to build a Marine Emergency Duties training facility in Owen Sound, which is a prime location for its proximity to the Great Lakes. Your support for securing the needed funding to build this MED facility will ensure the province's marine sector, businesses and livelihoods that depend on it are innovative and competitive into the future.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my support for the college's MED proposal, and I look forward to your reply and opportunity to meet and further discuss ways to provide access to a better range of marine training opportunities in Ontario.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Walker".

Bill Walker, MPP  
Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound

Cc: The Hon. Kathleen Wynne, Premier  
The Hon. Brad Duguid, Minister of Training Colleges and Universities  
Ms. Nancy Naylor, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities  
The Hon. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Economic Development, Trade and Employment  
MaryLynn West-Moynes, President & CEO, Georgian College  
Larry Miller, MP, Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound  
City of Owen Sound Mayor & Council  
Grey County Warden & Council