

Ottawa

Room 349, Confederation Building
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
Tel.: 613-996-1119
Fax: 613-996-0850



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Ottawa

Pièce 349, Édifice de la Confédération
Ottawa (Ontario) K1A 0A6
Tél. : 613-996-1119
Télééc. : 613-996-0850

Constituency

9711 Fourth Street Suite 1
Sidney, British Columbia V8L 2Y8
Tel.: 250-657-2000
Fax: 250-657-2004

Elizabeth May

Member of Parliament / Député(e)
Saanich — Gulf Islands

Circonscription

9711, rue Fourth suite 1
Sidney (Colombie-Britannique) V8L 2Y8
Tél. : 250-657-2000
Télééc. : 250-657-2004

The Honourable Harjit Sajjan
Minister of National Defense
House of Commons
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

October 2020

Re: The Canadian Department of National Defense Cancels Purchase Order placed with a Small Canadian Business

Dear Minister,

I am writing to request an explanation for a recent decision carried out by the Canadian Department of National Defense (DND). The DND has retracted a purchase order placed with a small marine technology business in my constituency. This decision has adversely affected the business, and has caused various company employees to become disillusioned with the federal government's commitment, or lack thereof, to support small businesses in Canada.

Ping Digital Signal Processing Inc. (Ping DSP Inc.) is a small marine technology manufacturing company located in North Saanich BC. Ping DSP Inc. develops advanced sonar technology for mapping, imaging and exploring underwater environments. Despite being a small company, Ping DSP Inc. has garnered interest for their products internationally, including a partnership with the US Army Corps of Engineers. The demand for their products has grown in countries such as China, Ukraine, the Netherlands, Poland, Bermuda, India and Australia.

Although Ping DSP Inc. celebrates these international successes, the company has sought to create a partnership with the Canadian Government for many years. In August 2020, the company received an order from the Canadian DND, which was upwards of \$75,000. The team was very excited about the order, as they looked forward to building a partnership with their own government. However, just one month later, the company received a phone call from the DND contract authority requesting that the order be cancelled due to "budgetary constraints".

The federal government has emphasized its intent to help Canadians and businesses through this difficult economic time. From the perspective of Ping DSP Inc., this has not been the case.



The federal government has gone back and forth on its decision to partner with Ping DSP Inc. The commitment was made and subsequently rescinded.

I respectfully ask that you provide an explanation for why the order placed with Ping DSP Inc. was cancelled. I would be grateful if you could look into the matter personally with an eye to restoring the original commitment.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out should you have any questions or if you would like to discuss this matter in more detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth May". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Elizabeth May, O.C.
Member of Parliament
Saanich-Gulf Islands
Parliamentary Leader of the Green Party of Canada

