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HOUSE OF COMMONS
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Elizabeth May

Member of Parliament / Députée
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The Honourable Gerry Ritz, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Agriculture
House of Commons
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The Honourable Gail Shea, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Fisheries

The Honourable Rona Ambrose, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Health

August 26th, 2013

Dear Honourable Colleagues,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the ongoing crisis of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster and in particular the leakage of highly radioactive water from the site into the Pacific Ocean.

As you are no doubt aware, Fukushima plant operator Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) recently contained a leak of 300 tonnes of highly radioactive water from a storage tank on site. Recent reports have also revealed the problem of the seepage into the Pacific of highly radioactive groundwater which has accumulated underground since the March 11, 2011 earthquake caused meltdowns of three reactors and the release of radioactive material at the plant. It is estimated that this radioactive water is leaking into the ocean at a rate of 300 tonnes a day.

It is my understanding that the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency have undertaken sampling and testing for the radioactivity of fish in 2011 and have announced on several occasions that there is no risk to Canadians. I also understand that no testing of food products imported from Japan has been undertaken by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency since October. However, recent news about Fukushima has highlighted concerns that I think merit investigation. For instance, in an interview with the CBC, physician and health

expert Erica Frank says that there are Pacific wild salmon migrating through the radioactive plumes of Fukushima and that we are catching these fish. In the same interview, it is revealed that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency relies on Japan for test results concerning radiation.

Information like this raises many questions. What is the government doing to ensure that radiation from Fukushima is not affecting our fish, habitat and health? Given the severity and scope of ongoing crisis in Fukushima, not to mention public concern at home, is it not advisable to take additional steps to monitor radiation in our fish and in our imported seafood products? What additional steps will Health Canada take to ensure that Canadians and our environment are safe?

Thank you for your time and attention to this urgent matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth May". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

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

