Petition to the Government of Canada

Whereas:

- Coastal areas are critical wildlife habitat used by birds for migration stopovers, overwintering, breeding, foraging and roosting;
- The Greater Victoria area is on the Pacific Flyway, a major flyway for migratory birds from Alaska to Patagonia;
- This coastal area supports many taxa including waterfowl, loons, grebes, gulls, shorebirds, raptors and passerines: some species are nationally threatened (Marbled Murrelets) and nationally vulnerable (Great Blue Herons);
- Migratory birds face increasing pressures and significant, widespread population declines due to climate change, pollution and habitat loss;
- Canadian shorebird populations have declined 42% since 1980 (Birds Canada/ECCC, 2024);
- Migratory Bird Sanctuaries (MBS) are established under the five-nation Migratory Bird Convention Act to protect migratory birds and their nests, and studies confirm that migratory birds use habitat within all three MBS in the region both year-round and seasonally;
- Greater Victoria hosts three MBS under federal authority: Victoria Harbour, Shoal Harbour, Esquimalt Lagoon;
- A significant gap exists between the Victoria Harbour and the Shoal Harbour MBS;
- This entire shoreline falls within the traditional territories of the WSÁNEC and Lekwungen Nations, who seek to strengthen their Indigenous marine stewardship rights and responsibilities through guardian programs; and
- The internationally-designated Sidney Channel Important Bird Area recognizes the importance of MBS in maintaining global bird populations.

We, the undersigned citizens and residents of Canada, call upon the Government of Canada to:

- Establish a new Salish Sea Migratory Bird Sanctuary connecting the Victoria Harbour and Shoal Harbour MBS, to protect the millions of migratory birds and other wildlife and habitat along this shoreline.

Signature (Sign your own name. Do not print.)	**Address** (Just city and province, OR postal code)

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Guidelines

1. Must have at least 25 original signatures with valid addresses (we recommend 30+ to be safe);
2. Must contain original signatures written directly on the document and not pasted, taped, photocopied or otherwise transferred to it;
3. Must have at least 3 valid signatures and addresses on the first page after the full text of the petition (again, more is better if they can be fit);
4. Must include the prayer line (the request) of the petition on each subsequent page;
5. The text must not be altered or have any text added on any of the pages;
6. Each petitioner must sign, not print, their name directly on the petition;
7. Should contain signatures of residents of Canada only;
8. There is no minimum age requirement for anyone signing a petition;
9. If a petitioner cannot sign because of illness or a disability, this must be noted on the petition and the note signed by a witness. Aside from this exception, you can only sign for yourself;
10. No photocopies, scans, e-mails etc. as petitions are only admissible in hardcopy; and,
11. Petitions can be either double-sided or have a blank back page.

Please return all original signed petitions, postage free, to:

Elizabeth May, M.P.
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6