



October 6, 2025

Marineland of Canada Inc.
c/o Ms. Nancy Golbourne
< ngoulbourne@marineland.ca >

Dear Marineland of Canada Inc.,

I am responding to your correspondence of October 1 and October 3, 2025, concerning your request that I reconsider my decision to deny the export of 30 beluga whales from your facility to Chimelong Ocean Kingdom and approve federal funding for Marineland.

As minister responsible for the Fisheries Act, my responsibility is to administer the Act appropriately, in the best interest of the whales, and to respect taxpayer dollars. The fact that Marineland has not planned for a viable alternative despite raising these whales in captivity for many years, does not place the onus on the Canadian government to cover your expenses.

Your letter also outlines serious concerns about the welfare of the whales in your care. I encourage you work with the province of Ontario, under the PAWS Act, to address these concerns.

The Government of Canada previously approved the export of belugas from Marineland in 2021 and will consider any other permit requests that are in the best interest of the whales. I want to assure you that, should a request come forward, I will review it expeditiously. At this point, you have only brought forward one proposal, which would mean continued life in captivity, further risks in transport, especially at this distance, and importantly, a return to public entertainment for these whales.

To reiterate, I remain open to export permit applications and urge Marineland to act in good faith.

Yours sincerely,



The Honourable Joanne Thompson, P.C., M.P.