

Mr. M. Ignatieff
Honourable Leader of the Opposition
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Ignatieff,

As a resident of the Niagara Region and a skilled and experienced trade's person, I have enjoyed working on the construction of new ships at Port Weller Dry Docks for many years. The company that controls this ship building site and built excellent ships in the past, Upper Lakes Marine & Industrial inc., no longer builds new ships here. The government's initiative to open the ship building industry to free trade with Europe and a lack of domestic focus is having a significant negative effect on our ship building economy. New ships are being built in Korea and China where labor law creation and enforcement is lax to nonexistent. This may be called "free Trade" however it's hardly fair or morally sound.

The ability to govern or question those that are governing is based on your moral authority. Without that authority or put another way, "moral soundness", there is no justification for actions of governments or any questioning positions you may pose.

As leader of the Opposition, experienced in living both in Canada and the United States, you know that our largest trading partner has policies in place that require any ship sailing between domestic American inland ports to be built the USA. If the USA with all its size and economic prowess needs such legislation and understands the need to help its own, why does our Canadian government not understand and act on behalf of its people? Government must be the social conscience of commerce.

We ordinary citizens of Canada, look to scholars such as you to lead us into prosperity and along a moral path. We trust your intentions and yet see nothing substantive helping our local ship building industry. When will you support Fed Dev programs to that end or demand new and supportive domestic policy? When will you say with a loud voice and in parliament that shipbuilding is an environmentally friendly, responsible business that creates many good paying jobs here in Niagara? When will you ask the government to be "real" and create marine jobs in our area? Building a new ship at our Niagara shipyard would create hundreds of skilled jobs in a virtual instant. Economic recovery needs to happen in my wallet, not just on some financial index.

Please represent us ordinary folks who work, raise families and pay taxes; the very taxes which will seemingly be used to buy foreign ships. How unpatriotic and calloused can the government get before you act?

I sincerely look forward to hearing from you and what you can do.

Very Best Regards