



Marine Safety and Security  
4900 Yonge Street  
Toronto, Ontario  
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North York

March 17, 2026

To: Jean Abou Saab, Chief of Staff, City Manager's Office, City of Toronto

**Subject: Formal Statement Regarding Interim Order Request at Marie Curtis Park, Humber Bay Park, and Bluffer's Park**

Transport Canada's top priority is the safety and security of Canada's marine transportation system and all those who use our waterways. Under the [Canada Shipping Act, 2001](#), the Minister of Transport has a range of authorities to address marine safety risks, where appropriate.

One such authority is the issuance of an Interim Order. An interim order under the *Canada Shipping Act, 2001* is a temporary, legally binding instrument issued by the Minister of Transport to immediately address direct or indirect risks to marine safety or the marine environment. These orders act like regulations for a specified period of time and do not require the standard regulatory process.

The City of Toronto has requested that Transport Canada consider implementing a federal Interim Order to establish temporary restrictions on Personal Watercraft (PWC) operations in certain areas of the Toronto waterfront for the 2026 boating season. After careful review, Transport Canada has determined that a federal Interim Order would not be the best mechanism in this case. Transport Canada believes that local authorities are best positioned to address these local issues using their existing authorities. A targeted, locally-led approach is more likely to provide practical and responsive solutions.

As a long-term option, Transport Canada has encouraged the City to pursue restrictions, in accordance with the [Vessel Operation Restriction Regulations \(VORR\)](#). The VORR addresses safety, environmental, and public interest concerns in local waterways. Transport Canada stands ready to review an application from the City under the VORR.

Transport Canada will continue to work collaboratively with municipal and regional partners to promote safe and responsible boating across Canada.

Sincerely,

Nel, Nicole

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