



MAY 27 2019

International Coral Reef Initiative Secretariat
fstaub@icriforum.org

Dear Secretariat:

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I am pleased to confirm Canada's interest in becoming a member of the International Coral Reef Initiative.

As you know, France proposed expanded membership in the International Coral Reef Initiative as an outcome of the recent G7 Environment Ministers' Meeting in Metz. During that meeting, I was interested to learn more about the Initiative's important work, which links well with Canada's ongoing efforts to advance and promote nature-based solutions for coastal resilience. These efforts build on Canada's 2018 G7 presidency's priority on healthy oceans, seas, and resilient coastal communities, as embodied in the *Charlevoix Blueprint on Healthy Oceans, Seas, and Resilient Coastal Communities*.

The Government of Canada recognizes that coral reefs are some of the most diverse ecosystems on the planet and provide important ecosystem services, such as coastal protection from waves and erosion, habitat for marine species, and a source of food and livelihoods for local communities. For this reason, the Government is working on conserving coral reefs both domestically and internationally. Canada will continue working toward Target 10 as it relates to coral reefs under the Convention on Biological Diversity's Aichi Targets, as well as protecting corals and sponges through the country's marine conservation targets and the use of marine protected areas at home.

In addition, Canada is supportive of the objectives of the International Coral Reef Initiative outlined in its documents *A Continuing Call to Action 2013* and *A Framework for Action 2013*, including its goal to mobilize governments, improve management practices, as well as share and exchange knowledge about these ecosystems. Furthermore, Canada is interested in participating in this initiative by sharing and exchanging knowledge to further these objectives.

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I thank you for this initiative's important work, and I look forward to a fruitful collaboration to protect our oceans, communities, and planet.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C McKenna', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans, and
the Canadian Coast Guard