



**VIA EMAIL**

October 3, 2025

The Honourable Joanne Thompson  
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario

DFO.Minister-Ministre.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

Dear Minister Thompson,

**RE: Marineland – Beluga Whales**

We have received the Minister's decision denying the export permits and her directive that she will not authorize permits for export to any facility that houses animals in captivity for "entertainment." This decision has far-reaching implications and effectively prohibits the export of the Beluga whales to any operational aquarium worldwide.

Furthermore, the Minister has acknowledged the troubling reality that there are no operational "sanctuaries" globally that can accommodate the whales. This leaves us in a precarious situation, as Marineland is not aware of any facility, anywhere in the world, that meets the conditions set forth by the Minister for the export of these majestic animals.

We understand and appreciate that the Minister holds a strong belief against captivity, and we do not oppose this viewpoint. However, it is important to recognize that these whales were born in captivity. Releasing them into the ocean would unfortunately lead to their immediate demise.

In light of these circumstances, we earnestly request confirmation of whether the Minister is aware of any facility that the Beluga whales could potentially be exported to. Time is of the essence, and we are deeply concerned about the future of these whales.

It has been made clear to the Minister that Marineland is in a critical financial state. We are fully indebted and rapidly running out of resources to provide adequate care for the whales. Our only options at this point are to either relocate the whales or face the devastating decision of euthanasia. This is an outcome we are desperately trying to avoid.

In this context, we must ask whether the Federal Government is prepared to provide immediate operating funding for ongoing whale care until a suitable relocation can be arranged in accordance with the Minister's conditions. The gravity of the funding crisis at Marineland cannot be overstated; any further delay jeopardizes the welfare and security of the whales, and we fear we are running out of time to act.

We respectfully request a response to each of these critical questions by no later than October 7, 2025. If we do not receive a response by that date, we will have no choice but to presume that the answers to our inquiries are negative. In such an unfortunate scenario, we will inform all stakeholders and the public accordingly and proceed with actions that will be a direct consequence of the Minister's decision.

We are hopeful for your understanding and support in this urgent matter. The lives of these whales depend on our collective action, and we implore you to assist us in finding a compassionate resolution.

Sincerely,  
MARINELAND OF CANADA INC.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a series of fluid, connected loops and curves, positioned below the typed name.

CC: The Right Honourable Mark Carney [pm@pm.gc.ca](mailto:pm@pm.gc.ca)