



For Immediate Release

July 4, 2011

HALIFAX - The federal government's last minute decision to extend the deadline for bids in the \$35-billion shipbuilding procurement competition raises serious concerns about the ongoing fairness of the process, Liberal Industry Critic Geoff Regan said Monday.

"I hope this decision will not shift focus away from a merit-based process to determine the best bid for Canada," Mr. Regan said. "We need an open and transparent process that is free of even a hint of political interference because this is very important for the Canadian economy and will be of benefit to the whole country."

The Liberal critic noted the fact this extension was announced in a press release late on the eve of the July 1st long weekend is usually a sign the government is trying to hide something.

Mr. Regan said all four yards bidding on these shipbuilding contracts - Irving Shipbuilding Inc. of Halifax, N.S.; MLI-Davie Yards of Levis, Que; Seaway Marine of St. Catherine's, Ont.; and Seaspan Marine Inc., of Vancouver, B.C. - need to know the rules will be followed and that they will be treated fairly.

He urged the federal government to proceed with the new extended date of July 21 for bids in a transparent way with no further political interference and no further delays.

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