



25 Eddy Street – 5th Floor
Gatineau, Quebec
K1A 0M5

30 June 2011

Re: *Heritage Lighthouse Protection Act*

To whom it may concern:

On May 29, 2010, the *Heritage Lighthouse Protection Act* came into force. The Act supports the designation and protection of federally owned lighthouses with significant heritage value. On behalf of the federal government, the Parks Canada Agency is implementing the Act through its Heritage Lighthouse Program.

As of May 30, 2011, 56 lighthouses across Canada have been nominated for designation under the Act through a public petition process. A number of these nominated lighthouses are presently being examined by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada for potential designation. We anticipate the announcement of the first “heritage lighthouse of Canada” designations in the coming months.

The number of petitions received illustrates the depth of attachment and appreciation Canadians feel for these iconic buildings. In British Columbia, where upwards of 30 historic lighthouses may be considered candidates for designation under the Act, three nominations have thus far been received: one each for Point Atkinson, Sheringham Point and Sisters Islets.

In order to increase awareness of the Act, we have undertaken a number of communications activities and are continuing our efforts to inform organizations and institutions interested in the preservation of built heritage in Canada and British Columbia that residents of Canada may nominate lighthouses for designation up to and including May 29, 2012 by forwarding a petition to Parks Canada. Petitions must be addressed to the Minister responsible for Parks Canada (the Minister of the Environment), specify which lighthouse is being nominated, and be signed by at least 25 residents of Canada who are 18 years of age or older. Original, completed petitions should be sent to the Heritage Lighthouse Program office at Parks Canada.

Interested citizens may visit the Parks Canada website (www.parkscanada.gc.ca, under National Historic Sites – Heritage Lighthouses) for additional program information or to obtain a nomination package. They may also contact the Heritage Lighthouse Program office at 819-934-9096. Parks Canada is also exploring with Heritage BC the possibility of convening community information sessions in British Columbia; we are asking heritage organizations and institutions in British Columbia to inform us if they would be interested in participating in such a session.

Sincerely,

Norman Shields
Manager, Heritage Lighthouse Program