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March 30, 2012

File No.: 0230-20

Via Email: avicc@ubcm.ca

Chair Joe Stanhope
President, Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

Dear Joe Stanhope:

Thank you for your January 31, 2012 letter requesting that Clare Frater, Islands Trust Policy Analyst, continue to represent the Islands Trust on the Joint Working Group for the Removal of Derelict Vessels in British Columbia. The Islands Trust Executive Committee decided yesterday to support Clare's continued involvement on the working group. Continuing this commitment beyond the fall of 2012 depends on Trust Council deciding to keep this topic on its strategic plan. We will advise you after the September 2012 Trust Council meeting if there is a change in our commitment.

We share your cautious optimism that the recent Transport Canada study to assess the scope of the problem for the Pacific Region may result in this working group reconvening to advance resolution of this issue. While we await the release of the study's results we request that the working group reconvene now to produce a fact sheet for local government bylaw officers that answers commonly asked questions about abandoned and derelict vessels such as:

- When and who to call in different scenarios?
- How to get an abandoned vessel declared a wreck?
- What are expected removal costs?
- What are disposal / recycling options for different types of vessels?
- What is the role of salvage companies?
- What permits are needed before removing vessels?
- What are possible sources of funding or partnerships?
- Examples of successful partnerships between Transport Canada and local governments.

We recommend a factsheet/FAQ because Clare is receiving calls from local governments about derelict vessels, and we cannot spare this much staff time to advise others, especially in area of federal or provincial responsibility. We hope that the leadership and costs associated with creating this essential resource can be covered by the other partners on the working group. We can offer Clare's time only in an advisory/review capacity.

I look forward to seeing you at the AVICC Convention.

Sincerely,

Sheila Malcolmson
Chair, Islands Trust Council

cc: Brenda Gibson, Union of BC Municipalities
Duncan Williams, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
Bob Gowe, Transport Canada
Islands Trust Executive Committee
Islands Trust website