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May 16, 2018

File: 6500-20 – Ganges Village Area Planning -
Harbourwalk

via email: FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

The Honourable Doug Donaldson
Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
PO Box 9049 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister,

Re: Ganges Harbourwalk, Salt Spring Island

On behalf of the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee (LTC), I am writing to seek your support in helping the Salt Spring Island community achieve its longstanding vision of a harbour boardwalk in Ganges.

Our staff will soon submit an application to the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) for a statutory right-of-way (SRW) along a portion of the foreshore in Ganges Harbour to allow completion of a critical segment of the Ganges Harbourwalk (see page 3 for approximate SRW route). In the late 1980s a community-led boardwalk was constructed within the area of Islands Trust's forthcoming SRW application, but it fell into disrepair. Much of the original infrastructure remains in place, and the Capital Regional District (CRD) is currently undertaking a structural assessment to determine whether it can be refurbished and used anew. The results of that assessment should be made public shortly.

At the same time, FLNRORD staff are currently considering renewal of a Crown tenure for the Ganges Marina that includes within its boundaries the area proposed for harbourwalk development. For the past 30 years, the old boardwalk infrastructure has been included in the Ganges Marina tenure, with the marina operators assuming liability for it. The LTC is proposing that the general path of the original boardwalk be excluded from the marina's tenure area and instead kept in public hands. While today's overlapping local government and private sector interest in the same water area may appear to present a conflict, the LTC is confident that that the harbourwalk and marina can co-exist, and indeed be of mutual benefit. Thoughtful wording within any agreements reached between FLNRORD, Islands Trust and the Ganges Marina operators can ensure that all agencies, as well as the Ganges Marina operators, can achieve their respective objectives.

The LTC respectfully requests that the Minister encourage FLNRORD staff to forego renewal of the Ganges Marina tenure until they have received and assessed an application from Islands Trust seeking public use of the subject foreshore area, and that said application be considered in light of a longstanding Salt Spring Island Official Community Plan policy to work towards completion of the Ganges public pathway system, of which the harbourwalk is an integral part. It should be noted here that because the *Islands Trust Act* does not permit LTCs to incur liabilities, Islands Trust's SRW application will request that the Crown retain liability for the existing boardwalk infrastructure within the SRW until such time as a detailed plan to advance boardwalk construction and operation is developed.

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We hope that ministry staff will give due consideration to this request. Islands Trust staff are available to provide you with any necessary information concerning the harbourwalk project to date.

Completing the Ganges Harbourwalk is a matter of public interest for the people of Salt Spring Island and its many visitors. Its development will help our Local Trust Committee fulfil the Trust object, "to preserve and protect the trust area and its unique amenities and environment for the benefit of residents of the trust area and of British Columbia generally . . .".

The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee looks forward to working with FLNRORD, the CRD, and all stakeholders to bring this important piece of community infrastructure to fruition.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Luckham

Chair, Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee

cc: The Honourable Selina Robinson, MLA, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Adam Olsen, MLA, Saanich North and the Islands
Elizabeth May, MP, Saanich and the Gulf Islands
Wayne McIntyre, CRD Area Director, Salt Spring Island
Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee

Approximate Location of Subject Harbourwalk Segment

