



Ref: 201567

November 18, 2013

Sheila Malcolmson, Chair  
Islands Trust  
200 - 1627 Fort Street  
Victoria, British Columbia  
V8R 1H8

Dear Ms. Malcolmson:

Thank you for meeting with me on Wednesday, September 18 at the 2013 UBCM Convention to discuss abandoned and derelict vessels.

The province recognizes that this complex, multi-jurisdictional issue constitutes a serious concern for coastal communities, and we acknowledge that many local governments have expressed an expectation that the provincial government play a lead role in managing the issue. Although the current fiscal climate will make funding any proposal challenging, I have agreed to re-engage with my federal counterpart on this matter and initiate discussions aimed at developing a long-term, collaborative solution.

Meanwhile, the province continues to work with local governments and federal agencies to deal with problem vessels on a case-by-case basis. Those that pose an immediate threat to public safety, navigation or the environment receive the highest priority. Additionally, we are seeking feedback from local governments on a draft document intended to clarify the multi-agency responsibilities for managing this issue. I strongly encourage your staff to participate in this process.

Again, thank you for attending the meeting. I appreciated the opportunity to discuss this important issue.

Sincerely,

Steve Thomson  
Minister