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May 22, 2012

Via Email: AVICC@ubcm.ca

Chair Joe Stanhope
AVICC President
525 Government Street
Victoria, BC V8V 0A8

Dear Mr. Joe Stanhope:

Thank you for the letter of May 7, 2012 addressed to the Joint Working Group for Removal of Derelict Vessels (JWGRDV) regarding the development of a factsheet on managing derelict vessels in British Columbia. I am pleased to respond to that letter on behalf of the JWGRDV.

The JWGRDV met on May 16, 2012, to discuss the development of a factsheet to assist local governments in the interim of finding a long-term solution for managing derelict vessels. The JWGRDV sees considerable benefit to such a factsheet and has agreed to produce a document that will include answers to key issues and questions identified by Chair Sheila Malcolmson, as well as others that Transport Canada has received regarding this issue. When completed, this information will be posted on the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) website. It is our hope that this will be available by September, 2012.

Transport Canada is consulting with various parties that are involved with dealing with derelict vessels and has completed a survey to assess the scope of this issue and proposed approach. The survey found about 400 abandoned or derelict vessels which are being considered with the bigger question of ship recycling in Canada. Transport Canada hopes to release the study to the public shortly.

Thank you again for your letter and for your support for an information resource for local governments.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brenda Gibson" followed by a horizontal line.

Brenda Gibson
General Manager, Victoria Operations, UBCM

Cc Chair Sheila Malcolmson, Islands Trust
Duncan Williams, Executive Director, Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations
Bob Gowe, Manager, Navigable Waters Protection, Transport Canada
Clare Frater, Policy Analyst, Islands Trust