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File Number: 0400-20

Via Email: marc.garneau@parl.gc.ca

The Honourable Marc Garneau
Minister of Transport
330 Sparks Street
Ottawa ON K1A 0N5

Dear Minister:

Re: Working Together in the Islands Trust Area

Congratulations on your recent re-election and re-appointment as the federal Minister of Transport. I am very pleased that you have been re-appointed to work with the Government of Canada in this capacity.

As Chair of Islands Trust Council, I can tell you that Islands Trust was created through the provincial *Islands Trust Act*, and is a federation of special-purpose local government bodies elected by 26,000 people living within the Islands Trust Area and approximately 10,000 non-resident property owners. The Islands Trust Area is located within Coast Salish territory and is the homeland to over 28,000 Coast Salish Peoples who have called this place home since time immemorial. The Islands Trust area covers the islands and waters of the Salish Sea between the British Columbia mainland and southern Vancouver Island. The area includes 13 major and more than 450 smaller islands covering 5,200 square kilometers reflecting the beauty and vitality of the Salish Sea.

The Islands Trust mandate is to preserve and protect the unique environment and amenities of the Islands Trust Area through planning and regulating land use, development management, and education. We fulfil this role in cooperation with First Nations and other agencies and through advocacy with organizations and community.

The region is more than a scenic archipelago; it provides habitats for an exceptional variety of species: more than 200 types of migratory and resident birds; more than 90 species at risk (according to the Federal *Species at Risk Act*); numerous species of fish; the iconic Southern Resident killer whale; migrating gray whales; diverse intertidal life; terrestrial wildlife and vegetation. The significance and sensitivity of the region, and the need for protective measures were internationally recognized in 1973. At that time, an International Joint Commission proposed that the islands and waters adjacent to the British Columbia-Washington State border be protected as an international park in order to maintain water quality, curb development, preserve and protect marine and land-based wildlife habitats and preserve and protect the cultural heritage of archaeological and cultural sites. We cherish this place and govern it in trust for all Canadians.

It is for this reason that Islands Trust would like to work closely with your Ministry on the Transportation 2030 strategic plan; on ways to create infrastructure to support the climate change emergency within the islands area; and ensure that the Ports Modernization Review includes ways to address tanker traffic and anchorages within the Islands Trust Area. We also note that your mandate letter asks you to continue to work with the

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Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and Canadian Coast Guard to implement the Oceans Protection Plan to deliver 24/7 emergency response for incident management; to increase on-scene environmental response capacity; and to develop near real-time information on marine traffic with First Nation communities and Islands Trust communities. We would like to support you in this mandate and look forward to finding opportunities to work together.

Extra vigilance and special measures are warranted in this region. The Islands Trust Area is among the most productive marine ecosystems in the world and includes the highest density of species at risk in Canada. Its preservation and protection is fundamental to Canada now and into the future. If time permits, I invite you to visit the islands where I would be more than happy to show you, first-hand, the beauty and significance the Islands Trust Area.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Luckham
Chair, Islands Trust Council
pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca

Attach: Map of Islands Trust Area

cc: BOKÉCEN (Pauquachin) First Nation
Cowichan Tribes
Halalt First Nation
Homalco First Nation
Klahoose First Nation
K'ómoks First Nation
Lake Cowichan First Nation
Lekwungen (Songhees) Nation
Lyackson First Nation
MÁLEXEŁ (Malahat) Nation
Penelakut Tribe
Qualicum First Nation
Scia'new (Beecher Bay) First Nation
SEMYOME (Semiahmoo) First Nation
shíshálh First Nation
Snuneymuxw First Nation
Sḵw̱xwú7mesh (Squamish) Nation
Snaw-naw-as (Nanoose) First Nation
SḶÁUTW (Tsawout) First Nation
Stz'uminus First Nation
SXIMEŁEŁ (Esquimalt) Nation
Tla'amin (Sliammon) Nation
Tsawwassen First Nation
Tsilil-Waututh Nation
T'Sou-ke Nation
Wei Wai Kum (Campbell River) First Nation
We Wai Kai (Cape Mudge) First Nation
W̱JOŁEŁP (Tsartlip) First Nation
W̱SIKEM (Tseycum) First Nation
xʷməθkʷəy̓əm Musqueam
First Nations Leadership Council
Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group
Laich-kwil-tach Treaty Society
Nanwakolas Council
Naut'sa mawt Tribal
Te'mexw Treaty Association
Bowen Island Municipal Council
Islands Trust Council
Islands Trust website

