



700 North Road, Gabriola Island, BC V0R 1X3

Telephone **250-247-2063** Fax 250-247-7514

Toll Free via Enquiry BC in Vancouver 604.660.2421 Elsewhere in BC **1.800.663.7867**

Email northinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca

Web www.islandstrust.bc.ca

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Via email: Board@scrd.ca

Sunshine Coast Regional District Board
1975 Field Road
Sechelt, BC V0N 3A1

To the Sunshine Coast Regional District Board,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Gambier Island Local Trust Committee in regards to the New Brighton Dock on Gambier Island.

The Squamish Nation, who are the current owners of the New Brighton Dock on Gambier, have completed the terms of their management contract with the Federal Government and are now selling the facility. The Squamish Nation staff representatives have indicated that there are several buyers interested in the dock and that they are also looking for alternative options that involve public ownership to present to Council. The primary interest of the community is that the dock remains open for public use for passenger ferry access, local moorage, and as the critical remote access point for basic services including emergencies.

The New Brighton Dock has been the main access point to this part of Gambier for more than a century and the settlement pattern around the peninsula reflects that. This is a sheltered, all-weather port with reliable passenger ferry access to Langdale Terminal multiple times through the day. Because of this, basic services such as stores, schools and emergency infrastructure have never developed to any degree on the island. Without access to the New Brighton dock, the only all-season facility on the peninsula, the community will cease to function in its current form.

The Gambier Island Local Trust Committee is requesting that the Sunshine Coast Regional District, as the service delivery local government for the island, take active steps to support the community in resolving this serious situation. Support such as advice in dock management expertise, development of a service function that includes the New Brighton dock, and engagement with the Squamish Nation in support of maintaining a public dock would be helpful. Although there is a meeting scheduled between the Islands Trust and the SCRD on September 14th, the Committee requests that active support be provided to the community as soon as possible.

The Committee recognizes that this is a very complex scenario that will involve all levels of government to work together. The Islands Trust continues to support Trustee Stamford, as a local representative, as she advocates with the community for continued public access to the New Brighton Dock.

Respectfully,

Sue Ellen Fast
Chair, Gambier Island Local Trust Committee