



June 26, 2013

The Honourable Minister Steve Thomson
Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
P.O. Box 9049, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister:

On behalf of the AVICC Executive and members, I would like to congratulate you on your recent re-election as MLA for Kelowna-Mission and re-appointment as Minister for Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. The experience and history you have in holding this portfolio is welcome.

As you know, derelict and abandoned vessels continue to be a significant issue for our communities for which there has been little progress over the past several years in finding a long-term resolution. The frustration is such that yet another resolution on the topic was endorsed at the 2013 AGM & Convention in April and will be considered at the September UBCM Convention.

You may remember that last year at this time we were waiting for a report from Transport Canada in hopes that it would provide some new insights that we could discuss. The *Study of the extent of abandoned and derelict vessels in Canada* was finally released in February. For the most part, it reiterated what was already known and recommended the development of an inter-jurisdictional working group to address and provide recommendations on a number of identified issues. An inter-jurisdictional working group has been in place since January 2011 and most of the identified issues in the report have been considered.

In response to our request for a factsheet to assist local governments in the interim, we understand that the Province has been working on a guidance paper to clarify the roles and responsibilities for each organization with a mandate to address derelict vessels. Although anticipated to be released this past fall/winter, it has recently been brought forward to the inter-jurisdictional working group for review with the expectation that it will be posted on the FLNRO website before the UBCM

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Convention. We appreciate the work in this area and hope that the document will meet local governments' need for information on how to deal with abandoned and derelict vessels in the short term.

To facilitate further discussion and information sharing, Islands Trust and the Municipality of Bowen Island have put forward a proposal to the UBCM Convention Planning Committee to sponsor a workshop or clinic on this topic that would summarize local government concerns about this issue, present the provincial guidance document and an update from Transport Canada about recent federal efforts to examine the issue.

In the response to the 2012 UBCM Resolutions on the topic, it was noted that your Ministry "is actively exploring long-term solutions within available resources during a period of fiscal restraint." Through one of our members, AVICC will be seeking to meet with you during the UBCM Convention and we will look forward to hearing more about what is being considered.

Thank you for your continued efforts on this file. We hope that one day soon a permanent solution that includes sustainable funding sources will be found.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry Cross", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mayor Larry Cross
President