

Deborah Liske

From: Corporate Services
Sent: January-28-19 1:49 PM
To: Deborah Liske
Subject: FW: Boating BC Presentation for Esquimalt Council
Attachments: 2019BoatingBCMotion.pdf; BoatingBCBackgroundEsquimaltCouncilJan_19.pdf

For mail log please. (Note, Delegation is scheduled for Feb 4th agenda, and they have requested that this correspondence be added to that same agenda.)

Corporate Services

General Delivery Email

From: Lisa Geddes [mailto:lisa@boatingbc.ca]
Sent: January-28-19 1:42 PM
To: Corporate Services
Cc: Don Prittie
Subject: Boating BC Presentation for Esquimalt Council

Please accept these two attachments in preparation for our President, Don Prittie, to present to Council on February 4th.

One document is our proposed motion for council the second is a backgrounder that summarizes our work on this issue over the past year, and was requested by Mayor Desjardins.

If you have any questions or require anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Many thanks,
 Lisa Geddes



BOATINGBC
ASSOCIATION

Lisa Geddes
 Executive Director
 Boating BC Association
 c. 604.339.9660
boatingbc.ca | [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/boatingbc) | [twitter](https://twitter.com/boatingbc)

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT		
For Information:		
<input type="checkbox"/> CAO	<input type="checkbox"/> Mayor/Council	
<input type="checkbox"/>		
RECEIVED: JAN 28 2019		
Referred: <i>Anja</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> For Action	<input type="checkbox"/> For Response	<input type="checkbox"/> COTW
<input type="checkbox"/> For Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council Agenda	<input type="checkbox"/> IC



2019 PROPOSED MOTION:

To put the following resolution forward to the AVICC by February 7, 2019.

Public Access to Waterways

Whereas access to public waterways in many coastal, lakeshore and riverfront communities, contributes to the quality of life and fabric of these communities, and are an important means for boating, kayaking, fishing and a host of other water-related activities;

And whereas there is an ongoing decline to such access points because of development and creation of community amenities:

Therefore, be it resolved that UBCM's coastal, lakeshore and riverfront member-communities consider incorporating existing public access points into community planning and identify areas in which there may be potential to add public access provisions to their longer-term community plans.

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January 28, 2019

Mayor & Council
Township of Esquimalt Municipal Hall
1229 Esquimalt Road
Esquimalt, BC V9A 3P1

Re: UBCM Resolution: Public Access to Waterways

Dear Mayor & Council,

In May 2018 Boating BC Association reached out the Township of Esquimalt regarding the issue of diminishing public access to our waterways. Our letter dated May 1, 2018 is attached.

Throughout the spring of 2018, our team engaged with several municipalities to discuss this issue and we received a very positive response from every council we went before. With that positive feedback, and to address the issue in a more meaningful way, Boating BC sought to have the following resolution put forward at the 2018 Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) annual convention.

Recreational Boating Access Infrastructure

Whereas recreational boating is part of the fabric of many BC communities, contributes to the quality of life and is an important economic and recreational activity;

And whereas there is an ongoing decline in boating access infrastructure, and marinas and public boat launches are being removed to make way for development and community amenities;

Therefore, be it resolved that UBCM's coastal, riverfront and lakeshore member communities incorporate existing boating access infrastructure into community planning and identify areas in which there may be potential to add boating infrastructure to their longer-term community plans.

Our team encountered some health issues that caused an unfortunate setback in our ability to continue our momentum. We missed the deadline to go through the Association of Vancouver Island and Coast Communities (AVICC) and had limited capacity to continue with our municipal meetings.

The District of North Saanich took this resolution forward to UBCM directly. When the resolution was put forward at the convention, many members of the municipalities we had met with were busy with the pending municipal election and were not present to speak on its behalf.

Through the process we received feedback that the resolution, as written, was too narrow in its scope, and so we have edited it to more broadly speak to the issue of public water access. It now reads:

Public Access to Waterways

Whereas access to public waterways in many coastal, lakeshore and riverfront communities, contributes to the quality of life and fabric of these communities, and are an important means for boating, kayaking, fishing and a host of other water-related activities;

And whereas there is an ongoing decline to such access points because of development and creation of community amenities:

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Therefore, be it resolved that UBCM's coastal, lakeshore and riverfront member-communities consider incorporating existing public access points into community planning and identify areas in which there may be potential to add public access provisions to their longer-term community plans.

As we prepare for the 2019 UBCM, and with health issues behind us, we are requesting to come before Esquimalt Council on February 4, 2019 to officially ask that the Township endorse this resolution and submit it to AVICC by the February 7, 2019 deadline. If supported, our team and membership will work to engage with municipalities across BC in the months leading up to the September convention to seek its support.

We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Prittie".

Don Prittie
President

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BOATINGBC
ASSOCIATION

May 1, 2018

Mayor & Council
Township of Esquimalt Municipal Hall
1229 Esquimalt Road
Esquimalt, BC V9A 3P1

Re: Access to waterways in British Columbia

Dear Mayor & Council,

On behalf of Boating BC, I am writing to share information and request your support to protect what is left of access points to waterways across British Columbia. Boating BC has been the voice of recreational boating in B.C. since 1957 and is comprised of over 300 member businesses from all sectors of our industry. Our mandate is to remove barriers for boaters and businesses while ensuring our waterways are both safe and accessible.

In British Columbia, recreational boating accounts for nearly \$2.2 billion of the province's annual revenue and supports nearly 17,000 jobs provincewide. With 27,000 km of coastline and thousands of lakes and rivers, British Columbia is most definitively a maritime destination, and recreational boating remains an important part of the culture and economy in many communities.

Over the past 10 years, as waterfront property prices have risen exponentially, we have seen an ongoing decline of boating access infrastructure. Marinas and public boat launches are being removed to make way for real estate developments and other community amenities, and where there are existing marinas, lease rates are increasing at nearly the same rate as land values. As a result, there are fewer and fewer safe public access points for domestic and visiting boaters to access waterways. The net effect of this trend is a decline in economic spin-off opportunities for local communities and, in some cases, an increase in safety risks as boaters are forced to travel longer distances to reach boat launches and go through dangerous waterways to reach their boating destination.

By way of example, the District of West Vancouver closed the Ambleside boat launch in October, 2016 without explanation or an alternative access point. Since that time, boaters have been forced to launch in alternative communities – as far away as Sunset Marina, Cates Park or Vanier Park – and travel, unnecessarily, across shipping lanes or the more dangerous waters of Point Atkinson in order to enjoy the waters and fishing off of Ambleside.

In Nanaimo, the Nanaimo Port Authority, which manages leases on behalf of the federal government, applied methodology resulting in foreshore lease rate increases between 60 and 125 per cent along Newcastle Channel. Such substantial increases would be extremely difficult for any business to absorb, and pose a significant threat to the affected marina operators.

These are just two of the many examples in relation to a concerning trend being played out across our province.

We are writing today to request the opportunity to present more about our industry to Council and the need to protect our public access to waterways. We would also like to ask Council to consider putting forward a motion at this fall's UBCM asking all municipalities across BC to do an inventory of current boating

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infrastructure within their municipal boundaries, protect existing public boat launches in their community planning and to consider adding more access points moving forward.

Unlike many other boating destinations in Canada and around the world, boating in B.C. is a year-round activity. Countless numbers of jobs are directly and indirectly related to the marine industry and there exists a strong connection between the tourism sector and ours.

Ensuring British Columbians and visitors have easy access to our waterways is critical for B.C. in order to prevent erosion of the industry, to continue to maintain recreational boating as a strong economic staple, and to uphold our maritime culture and boating lifestyle, which is central to who we are.

Understanding the timing and deadlines to put a motion forward to the UBCM, we would appreciate the opportunity to present to Council during the month of May.

To discuss this issue further, or to explore potential dates, kindly contact Lisa Geddes, our Executive Director, at lisa@boatingbc.ca or 604.339.9660 – or myself at 250.893.0055.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Don Prittie
President ^[1]_[SEP]
Boating BC Association

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