PROPOSED VICTORIA INTERNATIONAL MARINA

Petition to the House of Commons in Parliament Assembled, B.C. Provincial Legislature, and Mayor & Council City of Victoria

We, the undersigned, citizens and residents of Canada, draw the attention of the House, Legislature, and Mayor & Council to the following:

That concerned citizens are strongly opposed to an application by Community Marine Concepts Group to acquire a lease on a 6.42 acre (2.6 hectares) water lot that is currently owned by the Province of British Columbia on the north shore of Victoria's Inner Harbour to build a private Mega Yacht Marina. If granted, the Provincial Government would be removing this valuable natural property from the public domain and granting it to the use of a single developer for their own private interests to cater to a mega yacht marina for 50 private yacht owners.

That Transport Canada is charged with the responsibility as lead federal agency to conduct a CEAA screening level environmental assessment to request, receive and review environmental studies and reports and to grant approvals under CEAA concerning this project. A review of the reports submitted to CEAA by a qualified environmental specialist has found the reports to be lacking important information and does not provide adequate measures to mitigate potential impacts.

Transport Canada under the Navigable Waters Protection Act is mandated to "preserve the public right of unimpeded safe navigation". Victoria Harbour is one of Canada's top five busiest harbours with a complex and active mixture of large and small commercial vessels, private vessels, and float planes. Victoria Harbour contains Canada's only designated marine airport which had 33,992 landings and take offs in 2008. The proposed 6.42 acre (2.6 hectares) marina will reduce the usable width of the harbour in an area where adequate water surface is critical to vessel and float plane movement. Thousands of kayakers and other recreational boat users will be forced to paddle in a narrow corridor between the existing aircraft taxiway and the wave attenuation wall of the marina.

That the Westsong Walkway, overlooking the proposed site, is one of the areas most popular trails enjoyed by thousands of walkers who admire the harbour and distant mountain views while observing the wildlife that flourish on the waterfront. This quality of life experience will be lost forever if the project proceeds.

That no broad public consultation has been afforded this project, and that lead government agencies have not been transparent in their review.

Therefore, we, the undersigned petitioners, oppose this proposed development and request that Parliament, the Legislature, and the City of Victoria deny approval of the Marina application.

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