

Dear Friends of the Ladysmith Maritime Society,

You will be aware that the Town of Ladysmith has claimed to want the Ladysmith Community Marina to vacate the water lot (DL 2016) on which the Community Marina operates by 31 December 2023.

Presumably, as a response to inquiries by concerned citizens and community stakeholders, the Town of Ladysmith has published a statement on 11 April 2023 to provide background information on the intended Crown Water Lot Lease Transfer of DL2016.

In the interest of accurate public information regarding the water lot lease transfer the Ladysmith Maritime Society (LMS) has provided a response (18 April 2023) to clarify and provide more accurate information than what the Town may have been aware of at the time of their statement.

Both, LMS' response and a copy of the Town's statement are attached for your reference.

Please don't hesitate to contact LMS by

Email: [admin@lmsmarina.ca](mailto:admin@lmsmarina.ca) or  
Phone: +1 250 268 4542

Sincerely,

Richard Wiefelspuett  
Executive Director  
Ladysmith Maritime Society



Town of Ladysmith  
PO Box 220  
Ladysmith, BC  
V9G 1A2

April 18, 2023

(hand delivered and by email to: [towncouncil@ladysmith.ca](mailto:towncouncil@ladysmith.ca))

Attention: Mayor Aaron Stone and Council  
Re: Town of Ladysmith Statement of April 11, 2023

We appreciate the Town of Ladysmith's statement of April 11, 2023 (attached for reference) providing information to the public regarding the water lot and lease transfer process and are encouraged that they are "interested in seeing the continuation of marina operations at the water lot." We share this desire as well as the continuation of the Ladysmith Maritime Society.

However in the interests of accurate public information regarding the water lot lease transfer The Ladysmith Maritime Society (LMS) is providing this statement to clarify and provide more accurate information than what the Town may have been aware.

We can provide the following information:

- LMS is not aware of any marina operations that "could impact commercial activity occurring in the harbour" and we would welcome the opportunity to discuss any conditions the Town or the Province believe we are operating outside the terms of the lease.
- The lease proposal offered LMS **was not** under the same terms and conditions as the contract with the Town with an offer to negotiate new terms after three years. There were a number of significant changes needing further discussion some of which, as a charitable not for profit organization, we were not legally able to agree to. LMS attempted to initiate discussions to clarify these points without response.
- Provincial grants are not provided to organizations that the Province believes are not sustainable for at least 3 years. LMS, as an organization that has operated for over 35 years, has received many grants from the Province. When the Town issued a demand letter requiring LMS to vacate the water lot and remove all of our assets by December 31, 2023 we could no longer meet the 3 year requirement and the grant was withdrawn by the Province.

The Ladysmith Maritime Society (LMS) continues to support the transfer of the water lot to the Stz'uminus First Nation (SFN) and believes the interests of all parties is best served with a strong working relationship between SFN and LMS. We will continue to work towards that.

Sincerely,  
Kelly Daniels, President  
Ladysmith Maritime Society

Cc: LMS Members, Volunteers,  
Customers and Followers

(enclosure)





Town of Ladysmith Statement – source: [Statement on Crown Water Lot Lease Transfer \(ladysmith.ca\)](https://ladysmith.ca)

Apr 11, 2023

### **Statement on Crown Water Lot Lease Transfer**

The Town of Ladysmith is providing an update to the public regarding the transfer of the Crown water lot lease to Stz'uminus First Nation. The Town continues to support the transfer process and remains hopeful that all parties can reach a cooperative solution.

In 2022, the Town was contacted by the Province and Stz'uminus First Nation and presented with an option to transfer the water lot lease to the Nation prior to the 2029 contract end date.

The Town holds the water lot lease with the Province, and the Ladysmith Maritime Society (LMS) manages and operates a community marina within that water lot.

During these discussions, the Province notified the Town that some of the marina operations were not permitted in accordance with the Crown lease terms, and could impact commercial activity occurring in the harbour.

The Town and Stz'uminus have a mutual interest in seeing the continuation of marina operations at the water lot.

The early transfer of the Crown lease is an opportunity for both communities to strengthen our shared long-term economic prosperity through the environmental remediation of the harbour.

As such, Stz'uminus offered LMS an agreement to continue operating the community marina until 2026 under the same terms as the contract with the Town. The agreement offered by Stz'uminus included the option for LMS to negotiate new terms after the initial three years had passed.

An agreement between the two sides has not been reached, in part, due to a misunderstanding on the part of LMS that the operating agreement through to 2026 was open to negotiation.

The Town continues working with the Province and Stz'uminus to maintain the marina operations as it is an asset to the community.

The Town is also aware of a Provincial grant that was received by LMS in recent months. The grant conditions, including the required return of funds, are solely between the Province and the Society.

Furthermore, despite the Crown lease arrangement, the Town and/or Council was not consulted by LMS on either of the last two Provincial grants and is therefore unable to comment further.

The Town appreciates the community's interest in the future of the marina and will continue to keep all informed on the ongoing next steps and updates.

Moorage continues to be managed by LMS and boaters should contact the marina for details specific to their contracts.