

Petition Information and Background

Petition from the “Friends of Ladysmith Community Marina” to: “The Honourable the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia, in Legislature”.

The petition of the undersigned: “Friends of Ladysmith Community Marina”, its Members and Citizens of the Province of British Columbia and Canada, respectfully request that Legislative Assembly facilitate a negotiation process between the Stz’uminus First Nation and the Ladysmith Maritime Society in support of the implementation of a contract between the Stz’uminus First Nation and the Ladysmith Maritime Society to allow the Society to continue to operate and manage the Ladysmith Community Marina.

Background: In 1999 the Province of British Columbia awarded a headlease for District Lot 2016 (DL2016) to the Town of Ladysmith. On July 1st, 2009, the Town of Ladysmith subleased DL2016 to a wholly owned subsidiary, which in turn entered into a licence agreement with the Ladysmith Maritime Society to occupy an area within DL2016 to operate and manage the Ladysmith Community Marina for a period ending November 30th, 2029.

In 2022 the Province of British Columbia and the Stz’uminus First Nation signed a Reconciliation Agreement which contemplated the transfers of the headlease for DL2016 from the Town of Ladysmith to the Stz’uminus First Nation. This move was celebrated and applauded by all, including the Ladysmith Maritime Society. Subsequently, the Ladysmith Maritime Society and Stz’uminus First nation began discussing a license and management agreement in order for the Ladysmith Maritime Society to continue its operation and management of the Ladysmith Community Marina through to 2026, however the parties were unable to reach an agreement. Among other things, the proposed terms created a potential conflict with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Ladysmith Maritime Society. This was disappointing, as the Ladysmith Maritime Society looked forward to entering into a partnership with the Stz’minus First Nation in respect of the Ladysmith Community Marina.

By letter dated November 17, 2022, the Town of Ladysmith communicated an intention to evict the Ladysmith Maritime Society. “...Ladysmith will require LMS to cease operations in the licence area and remove all LMS assets from the licence area at its own cost and in accordance with all applicable enactments by December 31st, 2023, unless otherwise agreed by the (Stz’uminus) Nation.”

Time is of the essence to resolve this matter. The goal is for the Ladysmith Maritime Society to continue as managers and operators of the Ladysmith Community Marina, in respectful partnership with the Stz’uminus First Nation, for the benefit of the community.

Please Sign the Petition

Try to be present at 11:00 for a photo op

(Park a distance away please and walk to the site of the Petition Launch (in front of Doug Routley’s Ladysmith office))