

## Rice, Doreen ENV:EX

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**From:** Minister, ENV ENV:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 15, 2012 1:58 PM  
**To:** Correspondence Unit ENV:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Reply from the Honourable Peter Kent, Minister of the Environment  
**Attachments:** Gourlay Oct. 26, 2011(1).msg; Ms. Laurie Gourley.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Brian

**From:** CS - DCU [NCR] [<mailto:CS-DCU@ec.gc.ca>]  
**Sent:** February-10-12 11:47 AM  
**To:** Lake.MLA, Terry  
**Subject:** Reply from the Honourable Peter Kent, Minister of the Environment

## Rice, Doreen ENV:EX

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**From:** Kent, Peter - M.P. <peter.kent@parl.gc.ca>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 26, 2011 11:19 AM  
**To:** Minister [NCR]  
**Subject:** FW: Southern Georgia Strait National Marine Conservation Area  
**Attachments:** NMCA, Ltr to Minister's re N Bndry - Nanaimo, o25'11.doc; Letter to City & Regional Candidates, re NMCA proposal, LG, o17'11.doc; NMCA, Candidate Replies, o24'11.doc; NMCA, NALT - NRS Water Group Conclusions, s26'11.doc; NMCA, summary overview of benefits, o23'11.doc

From: Kent, Peter - M.P. Sent: 10/26/2011 2:19:01 PM

Julian Pecchia

Parliamentary Assistant

Office of the Hon. Peter Kent, PC, MP - Thornhill

Minister of the Environment

Rm 407 Confederation Building.

T - 992 0253 F - 992 0887

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

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From: Thistle [mailto:Thistle@shaw.ca]  
Sent: October 26, 2011 2:05 PM  
To: Kent, Peter - M.P.; terry.lake.mla@leg.bc.ca  
Subject: Re: Southern Georgia Strait National Marine Conservation Area

Laurie

Gourlay

2689 Cedar Road

Nanaimo, BC

V9X 1K3

Hon. Dr. Terry Lake

Minister of Environment  
Room 112, Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC, V8V 1X4

HYPERLINK "<mailto:terry.lake.mla@leg.bc.ca>"terry lake.mla@leg.bc.ca

Honourable Peter Kent

Minister of the Environment

House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6

HYPERLINK "<mailto:peter.kent@parl.gc.ca>"peter kent@parl.gc.ca

Re: Southern Georgia Strait National Marine Conservation Area

October 25, 2011

Minister Kent and Minister Lake.

I am writing to bring your attention to the support expressed from leaders in Nanaimo and the Regional District of Nanaimo for a northern boundary that would extend the proposed Southern Georgia Strait National Marine Conservation Area around Gabriola Island and into the Nanaimo estuary.

I have attached a selection of supportive comments from elected City and District representatives, as well as from a number of candidates in the local municipal elections now underway.

I would also draw your attention to the recommendations coming out of the Nanaimo River Symposium at VIU, hosted by the Nanaimo & Area Land Trust (Sept. 23-25). Corporate, government and public representatives at the Symposium looked at our region's future, and the importance of the Nanaimo River, and supported a northern boundary for the proposed NMCA that would extend into the estuary.

Leaders in the City and Regional District believe that the NMCA, a substantial coastal initiative, will help restore our coastal marine habitat, encourage tourism and lead to a viable local sports fishery and industry based on sustainable harvesting. The Nanaimo River and estuary are an important and vital part of the mid island's coastal health.

Given the support and interest, further consideration that would include this important estuary and river would be very welcome. December 11th is the 24th anniversary of the Brundtland Commission's report on sustainable development being presented to the UN, and I would like to suggest that any date up to this would provide an excellent opportunity for a briefing on progress for the NMCA.

This would especially be appropriate given the 20th anniversary of the Rio Earth Summit approaching in June 2012 - offering an opportunity to 'think globally and act locally', while opening a dialogue with our new City Council and Regional Directors.

With this in mind then, and if it is not too much to ask, I would also like to extend an option - an invitation to you, as the Ministers responsible, to visit Nanaimo in the new year. A private meeting with stakeholders and leaders in the area could be arranged to hear about plans for the southern Strait of Georgia National Marine Conservation Area. Or, should you prefer, a public forum could be organized.

With your support I am sure that there would be a great deal of local interest in partnering to establish a northern boundary that extends around Gabriola Island and into the Nanaimo estuary. Opportunity to further interest in a coastal marine interpretation centre is also prominent here, and such a facility would provide outstanding means to educate the public about our coast and benefits being advanced by senior governments in furthering marine protection areas.

The exceptional rewards to all sectors and interests then, the immediate and long-term benefits, all suggest that much can be gained by deliberations that include Nanaimo and region within the present NMCA considerations.

Please accept my best wishes as work proceeds on this exciting initiative. And please do not hesitate to be in touch if I, or others in the area, might assist with information or other supportive efforts.

Regards,

Laurie Gourlay

- attachments: - replies from local candidates
- letter to local candidates
- summary backgrounder of NMCA benefits
- NALT Symposium recommendations for NMCA

Laurie Gourlay, 2689 Cedar Road, Nanaimo, BC, V9X 1K3, (250 722-3444) [HYPERLINK "mailto:Thistle@shaw.ca"<Thistle@shaw.ca>](mailto:Thistle@shaw.ca)

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~~~~~  
"All would be better off if each person took into  
account the effect of his or her acts upon others "  
World Commission on Environment & Development  
~~~ Our Common Future, 1987 ~~~  
~~~~~

Minister of the Environment



Ministre de l'Environnement

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H3

FEB 10 2012

Ms. Laurie Gourley  
Thistle@shaw.ca

Dear Ms. Gourley:

Thank you for your e-mail of October 26, and the accompanying documentation, regarding Gulf Islands National Park Reserve of Canada.

Parks Canada is enthusiastic about protecting the waters surrounding Gulf Islands National Park Reserve of Canada. It is currently examining the feasibility of protecting these waters in a national marine conservation area reserve that extends beyond the Park to include a larger portion of the Southern Strait of Georgia. On October 13, the governments of Canada and British Columbia announced a boundary for this reserve for the purpose of consulting First Nations and local communities. For more information, visit [www.parksCanada.gc.ca/apps/cp-nr/release\\_e.asp?id=1783&andor1=nr](http://www.parksCanada.gc.ca/apps/cp-nr/release_e.asp?id=1783&andor1=nr).

This beautiful ocean area holds diverse natural marine values including eel grass beds, seabird habitat, and a significant portion of the critical habitat for the endangered population of southern resident killer whales. The importance of protecting these natural values is the driving force behind Parks Canada's efforts to establish a national marine conservation area reserve.

Parks Canada remains committed to its goal of negotiating an agreement to protect the natural wonders of this region in a marine conservation area for the benefit of all Canadians. The Agency is also committed to ensuring a strong economic future for local communities, First Nations, and the many others who are dedicated to the protection and sustainable use of the Southern Strait of Georgia.

Parks Canada representatives would be pleased to meet with the Mayor and Council of the City of Nanaimo to discuss the proposed national marine conservation area. To schedule such a meeting, I invite you to contact Mr. Richard Carson, Director, Western Establishment Initiatives, Western and Northern Service Centre, Parks Canada. Mr. Carson can be reached by telephone at 604-666-6797, or by e-mail at [richard.carson@pc.gc.ca](mailto:richard.carson@pc.gc.ca).



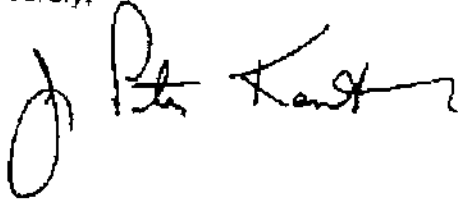
.../2

Canada

- 2 -

I trust this information is helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Kent". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

The Honourable Peter Kent, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: The Honourable Keith Ashfield, P.C., M.P.  
The Honourable Terry Lake, M.L.A.



**Laurie Gourlay**  
2689 Cedar Road  
Nanaimo, BC  
V9X 1K3

Hon. Dr. Terry Lake  
Minister of Environment  
Room 112, Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC, V8V 1X4  
terry.lake.mla@leg.bc.ca

Honourable Peter Kent  
Minister of the Environment  
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Re: Southern Georgia Strait National Marine Conservation Area

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I would also draw your attention to the recommendations coming out of the Nanaimo River Symposium at VIU, hosted by the Nanaimo & Area Land Trust (Sept. 23-25). Corporate, government and public representatives at the Symposium looked at our region's future, and the importance of the Nanaimo River, and supported a northern boundary for the proposed NMCA that would extend into the estuary.

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This would especially be appropriate given the 20th anniversary of the Rio Earth Summit approaching in June 2012 - offering an opportunity to 'think globally and act locally', while opening a dialogue with our new City Council and Regional Directors.

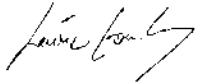
With this in mind then, and if it is not too much to ask, I would also like to extend an option - an invitation to you, as the Ministers responsible, to visit Nanaimo in the new year. A private meeting with stakeholders and leaders in the area could be arranged to hear about plans for the southern Strait of Georgia National Marine Conservation Area. Or, should you prefer, a public forum could be organized.

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Please accept my best wishes as work proceeds on this exciting initiative. And please do not hesitate to be in touch if I, or others in the area, might assist with information or other supportive efforts.

Regards,



Laurie Gourlay

- attachments: - replies from local candidates
- letter to local candidates
- summary backgrounder of NMCA benefits
- NALT Symposium recommendations for NMCA

Laurie Gourlay, 2689 Cedar Road, Nanaimo, BC, V9X 1K3, (250 722-3444) <[Thistle@shaw.ca](mailto:Thistle@shaw.ca)>

\*\*\*\*\*

Laurie Gourlay  
Cedar, BC, (250 722-3444)



...communities first

[Thistle@shaw.ca](mailto:Thistle@shaw.ca) <[www.Thistledownfarm.ca](http://www.Thistledownfarm.ca)>



**LAURIE GOURLAY**

2689 Cedar Road  
Nanaimo, BC  
V9X 1K3

To: Candidates for the City of Nanaimo & RDN Local Government Elections  
Re: National Marine Conservation Area - northern boundary proposal

October 17, 2011

Dear Fellow Candidates,

I hope you won't mind me contacting you at this time. I am concerned that the opportunity will be lost if we wait until after the election to raise support for a significant economic driver and conservation initiative for the City and Region.

I know you are all busy, as I am, working to be elected - but I think there is good reason to take pause over this matter. I think this opportunity calls upon us to set aside our differences and competitive spirit, so that Nanaimo and region might become part of a national initiative that promises to restore coastal and marine environments.

I am speaking about the proposal, just announced, for a southern Strait of Georgia National Marine Conservation Area. At present this proposal suggests a northern boundary that will end at the southern tip of Gabriola Island.

For many reasons I believe the City and Region would greatly benefit if the northern boundary was extended around Gabriola Island and into the Nanaimo estuary. I am then seeking your support for such a recommendation.

As I see it we have a wonderful opportunity to show the public how we might work together, bringing sustainable development into the heart of the RDN - implementing the fine words written in our official community plans and regional growth strategy.

But we need to act now. Late last week the federal Minister of the Environment announced that he was fast-tracking this proposal, with the BC Environment Minister's cooperation. There are only a few final details to go over.

For the region's benefit we can approach the Ministers together, indicating our wish to see the NMCA's northern boundary extend around Gabriola Island, and into the Nanaimo River estuary. A little cooperation, a chance to work together, and this election will see the City and Region well rewarded.

Together we can bring a strong message need to the federal and provincial environment Ministers - that the future elected leaders of the City of Nanaimo, and Regional District

Laurie Gourlay



Cedar, BC, (250) 722-3444

...putting communities first.

Thistle@shaw.ca www.Thistledownfarm.ca Page 10 of 57 MOE-2016-61047

of Nanaimo, agree and support and call for a northern boundary that will extend into the Nanaimo River estuary. That we want to work with them to bring this treasure home.

Last week I wrote to the City of Nanaimo's Economic Development Corporation, suggesting that an NMCA northern boundary into the Nanaimo River estuary would help "generate long-term prosperity across the mid island region and southern coast."

Over the past few years, as the President of a local non-profit society, MISSI, I have written many such letters to local governments and elected representatives. And the replies I have received suggest to me that a request from the City and Region would be welcomed by many in senior levels of government who support an extended NMCA.

Time is short however. If we are to be successful in attracting the jobs, economic and environmental benefits that accompany an NMCA we must let the Minister's know. We need to set aside personal aspirations during this election period, consider the City and region's needs, and the public interest - and act to present a formal proposal for the federal and provincial government's consideration.

I am then seeking your support - and suggestions on how to advance this proposal.

Ladysmith previously lobbied, successfully, to be included in this NMCA. All it takes is political will and support from local leaders.

My correspondence has also raised the possibility of securing a coastal marine interpretation centre, perhaps located overlooking the Nanaimo estuary. Such a gem would significantly further recommendations coming out of the Nanaimo River Symposium at VIU, hosted by NALIT on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Corporate, government and public representatives at the Symposium looked at our region's future, and supported a northern boundary for the proposed NMCA that would extend to the Nanaimo River estuary. And letters went out last month to local mid island governments, as well as the City of Nanaimo and RDN, requesting their support for this proposal.

I would suggest that the stage is set, responsible parties informed - and that now all we need do is to act for the public's benefit.

And lest you think it is too large a request please let me add that I was fortunate enough to have proposed a 'Gulf Islands Biosphere Reserve' in just such a manner in the late 1980's. This proposal led to the creation of the Gulf Islands National Park that so many now enjoy and benefit from.

I firmly believe this NMCA will help restore our coastal marine habitat, encourage tourism and lead to a viable local sports fishing and industry based on sustainable harvesting. I think the City of Nanaimo and Regional District of Nanaimo should be a part of this substantial coastal initiative.

I am then asking all candidates in the City and RDN to support the proposal for an NMCA that extends into and around the Nanaimo River Estuary.

I intend to again write to the federal and provincial Environment Ministers this coming Monday, October 24th. As I did this summer I will invite the Ministers to visit Nanaimo in the new year, and organize a forum so they might speak about plans for a southern Strait of Georgia National Marine Conservation Area.

I am hoping, with your support, that they will use the event to announce a northern boundary that extends around Gabriola Island and into the Nanaimo estuary - and maybe a coastal marine interpretation centre too!

I would be very pleased to add your names and remarks to the letter I will be sending, and invite you to contact me accordingly, at your earliest opportunity.

I have attached a copy of the Minister's October 13th media release, and backgrounder on the proposed NMCA. I can also provide additional information at your request.

My best wishes to one and all.

Sincerely,

Laurie

Laurie Gourlay, 2689 Cedar Road, Nanaimo, BC, V9X 1K3, (250 722-3444) <Thistle@shaw.ca>

\*\*\*\*\*

*Each generation is entitled to the interest on the natural capital, but the principal should be handed on unimpaired."*  
- Canadian Conservation Commission, 1915

**Re: proposed Southern Georgia Strait National Marine Conservation Area**

*Below please find edited remarks from all City of Nanaimo & RDN candidates who responded to my letter of Oct.13/11, seeking support for extending the NMCA boundary around Gabriola Island and into the Nanaimo estuary.*

*Please note, an oversight on my part resulted in not sending the request to Island Trust candidates on Gabriola Island. This is being corrected, and their replies will be included in any follow-up correspondence.*

*- Laurie Gourlay, October 25'11*

**Supportive Remarks:**

Anything that can be done to restore our marine biodiversity and all related positive steps have my full endorsement. The problems causing the demise are numerous as you are aware. I would be pleased to further study this matter at another time...

Respectfully, Brunie Brunie . Candidate for City Council

\*\*\*\*\*

"Thank you for bring this to my attention. I am fully supportive of measures which will make sure that there is a sustainable approach to development, as we should be leaving our environment in the same or in better condition than previous generations.

Cheers, George Anderson, Candidate for City Council

\*\*\*\*\*

Upon reading the summary provided regarding the National Marine Conservation Area agreement, I am fully committed and support its findings and intentions.

Preservation of our Marine boundaries and the ecosystem should be a priority for all of us to protect.

Bill Bestwick, City of Nanaimo Councillor. RDN Director

\*\*\*\*\*

Protecting our coastal marine habitat, for this generation and for the generations to come, is not only the responsible thing to do, it's the right thing to do. Therefore, if the constituents of Area G wish to have the National Marine Conservation Areas (NMCA) northern boundary extend around Gabriola Island, and into the Nanaimo River estuary, I will vote in favor.

Sincerely, Lance Pope, Candidate for Director - Area G

\*\*\*\*\*

As a candidate for City Council in Nanaimo, I understand the very delicate balance between commerce and preserving our very delicate environment. I whole heartedly support the extension of the northern boundary of the National Marine Conservation Area to include Gabriola Island (Inner Area) and the Nanaimo River Estuary. I also believe, while we will have to consider industry, the First Nations, and our community as a whole, that the long term rewards will create new opportunities for the entire population of the Conservation Area.

Yours very truly, Bill McKay, Candidate for Nanaimo City Council

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As the Mayor who led the adoption of Plan Nanaimo as the the Official Community Plan, particularly the inclusion of historic new protections for aquatic habitat, (which the development industry fought tooth and nail) I clearly support protection for the Nanaimo River estuary.

I urge full consultation with all affected parties to achieve real, ongoing estuary protection.

Gary Korpan, Candidate for City Council

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I consulted my friend Gillian Butler (an environmentalist) and her response to me was: "... I'm not sure how this would affect Coastland which uses the Estuary for log booms, (which are controversial as they are hard on the estuary) the Shunymexw First Nation, or the Duke Point Ferry terminal.

I personally do strongly feel that without a sustainable environment in place, the community and the economy are at risk for future growth and development ....We need to protect our waters and extending the northern boundary of NMCA to around Gabriola Island and into the Nanaimo estuary sounds more than beneficial, it is critical.

I'm sure Gillian wouldn't mind if you used any of her words along with mine. Thanks for the opportunity to be involved.

Arlene Blundell, Candidate for City Council

\*\*\*\*\*

Count me in! As you write, Section 5.2 of Nanaimo's Official Community Plan is a great collection of fine words, and it will remain just that unless we **act** on those fine words!

To extend the National Marine Conservation Area around Gabriola Island and into the Nanaimo Estuary, is a most important step in the right direction. Nanaimo's ESA's are, as our OCP states " Sensitive to disturbance by human activity and the impacts of development. They need special treatment in order to protect their integrity" and the time to provide that special treatment is now!

Regards, Fred Pattje, Councillor, City of Nanaimo

\*\*\*\*\*

I support the extension of the NMCA around Gabriola Island and into the Nanaimo Estuary. I have read the supportive information. It is crucial we are forward thinking, seven generations ahead.

I have listened and heard from many that it is imperative we have a plan for the future, and the conservation of Marine areas is paramount. I will work hard with our local environmental organizations, First Nations, and other community partners to ensure that we are meeting expectations, and protect as broad an area as possible. The province of British Columbia states the need to reflect the needs of the public\*.

The public, locally, have worked hard and I support extending the proposed NMCA around Gabriola Island and into the Nanaimo estuary.

Zeni Maartman , Candidate for City Council

*\*"British Columbia is committed to marine protection in the southern Strait of Georgia, and designation as a marine conservation area will provide for permanent and rigorous environmental protection," said Minister Lake. "It's important that our decision reflect the needs of the public, and the communities and First Nations nearby, as well as the need for continued protection of this ecosystem."*

\*\*\*\*\*

I support the initiative in principle for the NMCA to have the boundary extended around Gabriola and into the Nanaimo estuary. If elected to Nanaimo City Council, I would like to have a discussion with both the Provincial and Federal Ministers of the Environment on implementation.

As Always, Darcy Olsen, Candidate for Nanaimo City Council

\*\*\*\*\*

Sure I would sign this.

Dan Didio, Candidate for Mayor

\*\*\*\*\*

— support was expressed for the NMCA being extended into the Nanaimo estuary, in a phone call to LG on Oct 14<sup>th</sup>, from...

Jim Kipp, Councillor, City of Nanaimo

\*\*\*\*\*

I personally would like to see the inclusion of the entire gulf Island archipelago in such a conservation effort to preserve the unique marine environment. I know that would be arduous to

achieve given the extensive competing economic interests; however, I support your quest for the boundary extension in so far as it 1) does not delay the present conservation initiative and, 2) adversely impacting economic interests that contribute to Nanaimo employment and economic growth in respect of good corporate citizens and environmental partners in proactive conservation.

Sincerely, Rod Lomas - Nanaimo City Council Candidate

\*\*\*\*\*

I would support such a move and a possible extension to or addition of an "island addition" in the Pv-QB area, which has a sandy seashore, unlike most of the Island. ...You may count on support if I am successful.

Julian Fell, Candidate for Director, Area F

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#### **Uncertain:**

I do not feel well enough informed on the matter to make any specific comments at this time. There simply isn't enough time available to become fully informed on this subject. Certainly, the project appears to have fantastic potential for our communities, but without more research on or comments from stakeholders that might have objections to the boundary extension, I don't think that it would be appropriate for me to pledge my support at this time. It isn't a matter of not seeing the benefits; it is a matter of not fully seeing all of the drawbacks. If there was more time, I would ask if you could direct me to information from public hearings in which a more northerly border was discussed.

Warm regards, Skye Donald, . Candidate for Director - Area F

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#### **No Reply:**

Although a reminder was sent out on Oct xxx, a reply was not received from these candidates:

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **Incorrect E-Mail Addresses:**

Only two candidates could not be reached -  
Manhas Jeet, Rob Zver

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **Opposed:**

No replies were received opposing an extension of the boundary around Gabriola Island into the Nanaimo estuary for the proposed Southern Georgia Strait National Marine Conservation Area.



\*\*\*\*\*

**Additional Support from the local MP & MLA:**

- Jean Crowder wrote a letter about marine protected areas in September. Just so you know!
  - Yana Stratemeyer-Trinczek | Community Development
  - Jean Crowder, MP Nanaimo-Cowichan
- in a telephone conversation with the MLA for Nanaimo- North Cowichan, support was expressed for the proposed Southern Georgia Strait National Marine Conservation Area, and consideration of extending the boundary to the Nanaimo estuary. (LG)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Additional Contacts:**

MISSI – Interim President: Pauline Hunt <[paulih@mac.com](mailto:paulih@mac.com)>  
Mid Island Sustainability & Stewardship Initiative

CPAWS: Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society  
: 506-250 City Centre Ave :: Ottawa, ON K1R 6K7

GSA: Georgia Strait Alliance, 195 Commercial St  
Nanaimo, BC, V9R 5G5  
250-753-3459, . [www.GeorgiaStrait.org](http://www.GeorgiaStrait.org)

Islands Trust: Sheila Malcolmson, Islands Trust chairwoman.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Federal Government Contacts:**

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Follow up re: Strait of Georgia contacts  
Date: Tue, 13 Sep 2011 11:14:19 -0700  
From: Debby.Funk@pc.gc.ca  
To: midislandcommunities@shaw.ca  
CC: Richard.Carson@pc.gc.ca, vicki.haberl@pc.gc.ca, megumi.johns@pc.gc.ca

Hi Laurie:

Great talking to you today! Here is the contact information for Richard and the other team members I mentioned during our call. I again apologize that we cannot make the evening forum on September 22, and wish you the best of luck for creating synergies with the Mid Island Sustainability & Stewardship Initiative, VIU, community groups and individuals.

Thanks for sharing that your group raises awareness about the NMCA project

at community planning meetings throughout the 'study area'. Great that you were able to mention it at the Ladysmith community plan meeting last night, and other community planning meetings in Nanaimo. Your advocacy is very much appreciated.

As promised, here is Richard's contact info:  
Richard Carson  
Director, Western Establishment, Initiatives  
Parks Canada, Western and Northern Service Centre,  
300 - 300 West Georgia Street,  
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 6B4  
Phone: (604) 666-6797  
Mobile: (604) 202 - 2198

And Vicki's:  
Vicki Haberl  
First Nations Consultation Coordinator  
Southern Strait of Georgia National Marine Conservation Area Reserve  
Office: 604-898-3678, ext. 2227  
Cell: 604-849-3188

Megumi Johns does the consultations and communications for the project, and can add you to our email list to receive updates.

Any questions? Please call or email. I look forward to working with you!

Best regards,  
Debby Funk  
Parks Canada,  
Communications Manager, B.C. Initiatives  
603 Fort Rodd Hill Road, Victoria B.C. V9C 2W8  
Phone: 250.478.5135 Fax: 250.478.8415  
Mobile: 250.480.9106

100 years, Come Celebrate! 100 ans. Soyez de la fête!  
(Embedded image moved to file: pic22888.gif)

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## Nanaimo River Symposium - Breakout Session (Water)

9.25.2011

### **IMMEDIATE ACTIONS TO ACCHIEVE THE 2030 VISION:**

1. Submit to the province changes to the WaterAct to protect ground water
2. Submit this symposium's conclusions to RDN hearings in October on regional growth strategy with copies to other elected local authorities and First Nations
3. Increase use of rainwater catchment, so less draws on the Nanaimo river
4. Establish relationships among all involved authorities, citizens groups, first nations
5. Map quantity of water sources in Nanaimo river watershed, including Cassidy and its relationship to the Nanaimo river as a priority
6. Assess effects of development on ecosystem, including quality and quantity of water before development allowed, based on entire watershed despite geopolitical divisions
7. Determine Douglas Treaty and other treaty implications for the Nanaimo river watershed
8. **Submit to federal government request to change northern border of national marine conservation area to extend to Nanaimo river estuary**
9. Require new developments to connect to community water supply and waste treatment systems
10. Educate the public about the quality and quantity of water in the Nanaimo river watershed and related ecological, social and economic issues
11. Consider seismic upgrading of existing water related infrastructure

### **2030 VISION:**

Mid-island UNESCO model of biosphere

1. Nanaimo river watershed is in mid-island UNESCO- model biosphere reserve and Community owns the watershed
2. An educated public is involved and fully engaged in watershed management
3. Development is governed by sustainability of entire ecosystem with protection of nature, wildlife species like salmon get top priority for water
4. Obligations under the Douglas Treaty and other treaty processes are met

**A southern Strait of Georgia National Marine Conservation Area**  
**...extending around Gabriola Island & into the Nanaimo Estuary**

**Quotes:**

**BC -**

*"Our marine conservation areas system is one of British Columbia's greatest environmental and economic assets," said Penner. "They protect marine ecosystems and biodiversity and safeguard significant cultural, historical, recreational and scientific features, while also playing a key role in the sustainable management of B.C.'s fisheries..."*

*...As part of a 2004 Memorandum of Understanding, the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia agreed to jointly develop agreements on implementation measures for a marine protected areas framework. The goal is to have a completed system of marine protected areas in place by 2012."*

*- Environment Minister Barry Penner, press rlse, sept 7/07*

**RDN -**

*Prospering Today, Protecting Tomorrow: The State of Sustainability of the Regional District of Nanaimo is an in-depth look at the steps we need to take to maintain and improve the economic, social and environmental health of the RDN and its residents. The report recognizes that we are all part of an ecosystem, and our economic and social lives should be integrated into the environment in ways that enhance it rather than degrading or damaging it.*

*- ISSUE 7 - May 2007, Keeping in touch, Area A Director Joe Burnett*

**Federal -**

*"National marine conservation areas are protected areas managed for ecologically sustainable use by Parks Canada under the Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act. They include the seabed, the water above it and all living resources. The goal in these protected areas is to harmonize conservation practices with human activities such as fishing, shipping and recreation. Mining and oil and gas exploration and exploitation are prohibited. A national marine conservation area reserve in the Strait of Georgia would be managed in collaboration with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, which would continue to manage fisheries in the area"*

*- please see attached backgrounder from Minister Peter Kent, October 13, 2011*

**Overview:**

The BC and Federal Ministers issued a news release and backgrounder on October 13th, noting that they were fast-tracking a local NMCA proposal - that extended north from the Gulf Islands National Park Reserve to the southern tip of Gabriola Island.

Recommendations from the NALT Nanaimo River Symposium, of Sept 25th, attended by corporate, government and non-profit organizations, supported a call for an NMCA that would extend into the Nanaimo River estuary. (attached)

**Introduction:**

We once had a vibrant and productive inshore fishery, a dynamic sports fishery, and shellfish harvesting that provided for our needs as well as for export from the region. Much of this is now marginal, or threatened.

We had many water and boating-oriented recreational opportunities, a growing scuba diving and related tourism industry ...but these are all undermined as the coastal marine environment is further degraded.

We see growing calls for food security, and understand more of the inter-relationship between the health of the sea and the land. All add to our quality of life, and the self-reliance we enjoy along our coast.

Communities and the economy will benefit from the protection of essential marine habitat and ecosystems that provide the foundation for long-term sustainability and prosperity in the mid Island region.

**Benefits:**

- restoration of fisheries, marine biodiversity and related marine harvesting (ie -- economic & cultural benefits)
  - encourages positive restorative steps, and long-term solutions
- advances sustainability with respect to conservation/env't/resource sustainability
- supports local town councils, etc in their calls to be included with the NMCA
- provides benefits to the mid island - Victoria, Cowichan and Nanaimo regions
  - addresses ongoing issues particular to coastal water, air and land interfaces
- tourist and recreation opportunities.
- process leads to an enhanced public understanding of ongoing challenges in these waters.
  - helps re-engage residents in the mid island Region, and support for the quality of life and other advantages in living here.
- engages the First Nations and coastal communities of the Halalt, Cowichan Tribes, Snuneymuxw, Hul'qumi'num, and others with traditional and cultural interest.
- encourages business and economic interest in the region to 'buy-in' and support initiatives for the estuary and Nanaimo River, and other complementary actions to the NMCA that will benefit the entire region.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Rice, Doreen ENV:EX**

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**From:** Minister, ENV ENV:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 2, 2011 10:47 AM  
**To:** Correspondence Unit ENV:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Southern Georgia Strait National Marine Conservation Area  
**Attachments:** NMCA, Ltr to Minister's re N Bndry - Nanaimo, o25'11.doc; Letter to City & Regional Candidates, re NMCA proposal, LG, o17'11.doc; NMCA, Candidate Replies, o24'11.doc; NMCA, NALT - NRS Water Group Conclusions, s26'11.doc; NMCA, summary overview of benefits, o23'11.doc

**From:** Lake.MLA, Terry [mailto:Terry.Lake.MLA@leg.bc.ca]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 26, 2011 11:58 AM  
**To:** Minister, ENV ENV:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Southern Georgia Strait National Marine Conservation Area

**From:** Thistle [mailto:Thistle@shaw.ca]  
**Sent:** October-26-11 11:05 AM  
**To:** peter.kent@parl.gc.ca; Lake.MLA, Terry  
**Subject:** Re: Southern Georgia Strait National Marine Conservation Area



Laurie

Gourlay

2689 Cedar Road  
Nanaimo, BC  
V9X 1K3

Hon. Dr. Terry Lake  
Minister of Environment  
Room 112, Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC, V8V 1X4  
[terry.lake.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:terry.lake.mla@leg.bc.ca)

Honourable Peter Kent  
Minister of the Environment  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6  
[peter.kent@parl.gc.ca](mailto:peter.kent@parl.gc.ca)

Re: Southern Georgia Strait National Marine Conservation Area

October 25, 2011

Minister Kent and Minister Lake,

I am writing to bring your attention to the support expressed from leaders in Nanaimo and the Regional District of Nanaimo for a northern boundary that would extend the proposed Southern Georgia Strait National Marine Conservation Area around Gabriola Island and into the Nanaimo estuary.

I have attached a selection of supportive comments from elected City and District representatives, as well as from a number of candidates in the local municipal elections now underway.

I would also draw your attention to the recommendations coming out of the Nanaimo River Symposium at VIU, hosted by the Nanaimo & Area Land Trust (Sept. 23-25). Corporate, government and public representatives at the Symposium looked at our region's future, and the importance of the Nanaimo River, and supported a northern boundary for the proposed NMCA that would extend into the estuary.

Leaders in the City and Regional District believe that the NMCA, a substantial coastal initiative, will help restore our coastal marine habitat, encourage tourism and lead to a viable local sports fishery and industry based on sustainable harvesting. The Nanaimo River and estuary are an important and vital part of the mid island's coastal health.

Given the support and interest, further consideration that would include this important estuary and river would be very welcome. December 11th is the 24<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Brundtland Commission's report on sustainable development being presented to the UN, and I would like to suggest that any date up to this would provide an excellent opportunity for a briefing on progress for the NMCA.

This would especially be appropriate given the 20th anniversary of the Rio Earth Summit approaching in June 2012 - offering an opportunity to 'think globally and act locally', while opening a dialogue with our new City Council and Regional Directors.

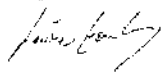
With this in mind then, and if it is not too much to ask, I would also like to extend an option - an invitation to you, as the Ministers responsible, to visit Nanaimo in the new year. A private meeting with stakeholders and leaders in the area could be arranged to hear about plans for the southern Strait of Georgia National Marine Conservation Area. Or, should you prefer, a public forum could be organized.

With your support I am sure that there would be a great deal of local interest in partnering to establish a northern boundary that extends around Gabriola Island and into the Nanaimo estuary. Opportunity to further interest in a coastal marine interpretation centre is also prominent here, and such a facility would provide outstanding means to educate the public about our coast and benefits being advanced by senior governments in furthering marine protection areas.

The exceptional rewards to all sectors and interests then, the immediate and long-term benefits, all suggest that much can be gained by deliberations that include Nanaimo and region within the present NMCA considerations.

Please accept my best wishes as work proceeds on this exciting initiative. And please do not hesitate to be in touch if I, or others in the area, might assist with information or other supportive efforts.

Regards,



Laurie Gourlay

- attachments: - replies from local candidates
- letter to local candidates
- summary backgrounder of NMCA benefits
- NALT Symposium recommendations for NMCA

Laurie Gourlay, 2689 Cedar Road, Nanaimo, BC, V9X 1K3, (250 722-3444) <Thistle@shaw.ca>

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"All would be better off if each person took into  
account the effect of his or her acts upon others."  
World Commission on Environment & Development  
~~~~ Our Common Future, 1987 ~~~~  
~~~~~





**Laurie Gourlay**  
2689 Cedar Road  
Nanaimo, BC  
V9X 1K3

Hon. Dr. Terry Lake  
Minister of Environment  
Room 112, Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC, V8V 1X4  
terry.lake.mla@leg.bc.ca

Honourable Peter Kent  
Minister of the Environment  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6  
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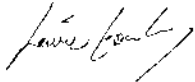
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\*\*\*\*\*

Laurie Gourlay  
Cedar, BC, (250 722 - 3444)



...communities first

[Thistle@shaw.ca](mailto:Thistle@shaw.ca) <[www.Thistledowntarm.ca](http://www.Thistledowntarm.ca)>

## Nanaimo River Symposium - Breakout Session (Water)

9.25.2011

### **IMMEDIATE ACTIONS TO ACCHIEVE THE 2030 VISION:**

1. Submit to the province changes to the WaterAct to protect ground water
2. Submit this symposium's conclusions to RDN hearings in October on regional growth strategy with copies to other elected local authorities and First Nations
3. Increase use of rainwater catchment, so less draws on the Nanaimo river
4. Establish relationships among all involved authorities, citizens groups, first nations
5. Map quantity of water sources in Nanaimo river watershed, including Cassidy and its relationship to the Nanaimo river as a priority
6. Assess effects of development on ecosystem, including quality and quantity of water before development allowed, based on entire watershed despite geopolitical divisions
7. Determine Douglas Treaty and other treaty implications for the Nanaimo river watershed
8. **Submit to federal government request to change northern border of national marine conservation area to extend to Nanaimo river estuary**
9. Require new developments to connect to community water supply and waste treatment systems
10. Educate the public about the quality and quantity of water in the Nanaimo river watershed and related ecological, social and economic issues
11. Consider seismic upgrading of existing water related infrastructure

### **2030 VISION:**

Mid-island UNESCO model of biosphere

1. Nanaimo river watershed is in mid-island UNESCO- model biosphere reserve and Community owns the watershed
2. An educated public is involved and fully engaged in watershed management
3. Development is governed by sustainability of entire ecosystem with protection of nature, wildlife species like salmon get top priority for water
4. Obligations under the Douglas Treaty and other treaty processes are met

**Re: proposed Southern Georgia Strait National Marine Conservation Area**

*Below please find edited remarks from all City of Nanaimo & RDN candidates who responded to my letter of Oct.13/11, seeking support for extending the NMCA boundary around Gabriola Island and into the Nanaimo estuary.*

*Please note, an oversight on my part resulted in not sending the request to Island Trust candidates on Gabriola Island. This is being corrected, and their replies will be included in any follow-up correspondence.*

*- Laurie Gourlay, October 25'11*

**Supportive Remarks:**

Anything that can be done to restore our marine biodiversity and all related positive steps have my full endorsement. The problems causing the demise are numerous as you are aware. I would be pleased to further study this matter at another time...

Respectfully, Brunie Brunie , Candidate for City Council

\*\*\*\*\*

~Thank you for bring this to my attention. I am fully supportive of measures which will make sure that there is a sustainable approach to development, as we should be leaving our environment in the same or in better condition than previous generations.

Cheers, George Anderson, Candidate for City Council

\*\*\*\*\*

Upon reading the summary provided regarding the National Marine Conservation Area agreement, I am fully committed and support its findings and intentions.

Preservation of our Marine boundaries and the ecosystem should be a priority for all of us to protect.

Bill Bestwick, City of Nanaimo Councillor, RDN Director

\*\*\*\*\*

Protecting our coastal marine habitat, for this generation and for the generations to come, is not only the responsible thing to do, it's the right thing to do. Therefore, if the constituents of Area G wish to have the National Marine Conservation Areas (NMCA) northern boundary extend around Gabriola Island, and into the Nanaimo River estuary, I will vote in favor.

Sincerely, Lance Pope, Candidate for Director - Area G

\*\*\*\*\*

As a candidate for City Council in Nanaimo, I understand the very delicate balance between commerce and preserving our very delicate environment. I whole heartedly support the extension of the northern boundary of the National Marine Conservation Area to include Gabriola Island (Inner Area) and the Nanaimo River Estuary. I also believe, while we will have to consider industry, the First Nations, and our community as a whole, that the long term rewards will create new opportunities for the entire population of the Conservation Area.

Yours very truly, Bill McKay, Candidate for Nanaimo City Council

\*\*\*\*\*

As the Mayor who led the adoption of Plan Nanaimo as the the Official Community Plan, particularly the inclusion of historic new protections for aquatic habitat, (which the development industry fought tooth and nail) I clearly support protection for the Nanaimo River estuary.

I urge full consultation with all affected parties to achieve real, ongoing estuary protection.

Gary Korpan, Candidate for City Council

\*\*\*\*\*

I consulted my friend Gillian Butler (an environmentalist) and her response to me was: "... I'm not sure how this would affect Coastland which uses the Estuary for log booms, (which are controversial as they are hard on the estuary) the Shunymexw First Nation, or the Duke Point Ferry terminal.

I personally do strongly feel that without a sustainable environment in place, the community and the economy are at risk for future growth and development ....We need to protect our waters and extending the northern boundary of NMCA to around Gabriola Island and into the Nanaimo estuary sounds more than beneficial, it is critical.

I'm sure Gillian wouldn't mind if you used any of her words along with mine. Thanks for the opportunity to be involved.

Arlene Blundell, Candidate for City Council

\*\*\*\*\*

Count me in! As you write, Section 5.2 of Nanaimo's Official Community Plan is a great collection of fine words, and it will remain just that unless we **act** on those fine words!

To extend the National Marine Conservation Area around Gabriola Island and into the Nanaimo Estuary, is a most important step in the right direction. Nanaimo's ESA's are, as our OCP states " Sensitive to disturbance by human activity and the impacts of development. They need special treatment in order to protect their integrity" and the time to provide that special treatment is now!

Regards, Fred Pattje, Councillor, City of Nanaimo

\*\*\*\*\*

I support the extension of the NMCA around Gabriola Island and into the Nanaimo Estuary. I have read the supportive information. It is crucial we are forward thinking, seven generations ahead.

I have listened and heard from many that it is imperative we have a plan for the future, and the conservation of Marine areas is paramount. I will work hard with our local environmental organizations, First Nations, and other community partners to ensure that we are meeting expectations, and protect as broad an area as possible. The province of British Columbia states the need to reflect the needs of the public\*.

The public, locally, have worked hard and I support extending the proposed NMCA around Gabriola Island and into the Nanaimo estuary.

Zeni Maartman . Candidate for City Council

*"British Columbia is committed to marine protection in the southern Strait of Georgia, and designation as a marine conservation area will provide for permanent and rigorous environmental protection," said Minister Luke. "It's important that our decision reflect the needs of the public, and the communities and First Nations nearby, as well as the need for continued protection of this ecosystem."*

\*\*\*\*\*

I support the initiative in principle for the NMCA to have the boundary extended around Gabriola and into the Nanaimo estuary. If elected to Nanaimo City Council, I would like to have a discussion with both the Provincial and Federal Ministers of the Environment on implementation.

As Always, Darcy Olsen, Candidate for Nanaimo City Council

\*\*\*\*\*

Sure I would sign this.

Dan Didio, Candidate for Mayor

\*\*\*\*\*

– support was expressed for the NMCA being extended into the Nanaimo estuary, in a phone call to LG on Oct 14<sup>th</sup>, from...

Jim Kipp, Councillor, City of Nanaimo

\*\*\*\*\*

I personally would like to see the inclusion of the entire gulf Island archipelago in such a conservation effort to preserve the unique marine environment. I know that would be arduous to

achieve given the extensive competing economic interests; however, I support your quest for the boundary extension in so far as it 1) does not delay the present conservation initiative and, 2) adversely impacting economic interests that contribute to Nanaimo employment and economic growth in respect of good corporate citizens and environmental partners in proactive conservation.

Sincerely, Rod Lomas - Nanaimo City Council Candidate

\*\*\*\*\*

I would support such a move and a possible extension to or addition of an "island addition" in the Pv-QB area, which has a sandy seashore, unlike most of the Island. ...You may count on support if I am successful.

Julian Fell, Candidate for Director, Area F

\*\*\*\*\*

**Uncertain:**

I do not feel well enough informed on the matter to make any specific comments at this time. There simply isn't enough time available to become fully informed on this subject. Certainly, the project appears to have fantastic potential for our communities, but without more research on or comments from stakeholders that might have objections to the boundary extension, I don't think that it would be appropriate for me to pledge my support at this time. It isn't a matter of not seeing the benefits; it is a matter of not fully seeing all of the drawbacks. If there was more time, I would ask if you could direct me to information from public hearings in which a more northerly border was discussed.

Warm regards, Skye Donald, , Candidate for Director - Area F

\*\*\*\*\*

**No Reply:**

Although a reminder was sent out on Oct xxx, a reply was not received from these candidates:

\*\*\*\*\*

**Incorrect E-Mail Addresses:**

Only two candidates could not be reached -  
Manhas Jeet, Rob Zver

\*\*\*\*\*

**Opposed:**

No replies were received opposing an extension of the boundary around Gabriola Island into the Nanaimo estuary for the proposed Southern Georgia Strait National Marine Conservation Area.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Additional Support from the local MP & MLA:**

- Jean Crowder wrote a letter about marine protected areas in September. Just so you know!

- Yana Stratemeyer-Trinczek | Community Development

Jean Crowder, MP Nanaimo-Cowichan

- in a telephone conversation with the MLA for Nanaimo- North Cowichan, support was expressed for the proposed Southern Georgia Strait National Marine Conservation Area, and consideration of extending the boundary to the Nanaimo estuary. (L.G)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Additional Contacts:**

MISSI -- Interim President: Pauline Hunt <[paulih@mac.com](mailto:paulih@mac.com)>  
Mid Island Sustainability & Stewardship Initiative

CPAWS: Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society  
: 506-250 City Centre Ave :: Ottawa, ON K1R 6K7

GSA: Georgia Strait Alliance, 195 Commercial St  
Nanaimo, BC, V9R 5G5  
250-753-3459, , [www.GeorgiaStrait.org](http://www.GeorgiaStrait.org)

Islands Trust: Sheila Malcolmson, Islands Trust chairwoman.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Federal Government Contacts:**

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Follow up re: Strait of Georgia contacts

Date: Tue, 13 Sep 2011 11:14:19 -0700

From: Debby.Funk@pc.gc.ca

To: midislandcommunities@shaw.ca

CC: Richard.Carson@pc.gc.ca, vicki.haberl@pc.gc.ca, megumi.johns@pc.gc.ca

Hi Laurie:

Great talking to you today! Here is the contact information for Richard and the other team members I mentioned during our call. I again apologize that we cannot make the evening forum on September 22, and wish you the best of luck for creating synergies with the Mid Island Sustainability & Stewardship Initiative, VIU, community groups and individuals.

Thanks for sharing that your group raises awareness about the NMCA project



at community planning meetings throughout the 'study area'. Great that you were able to mention it at the Ladysmith community plan meeting last night, and other community planning meetings in Nanaimo. Your advocacy is very much appreciated.

As promised, here is Richard's contact info:  
Richard Carson  
Director, Western Establishment, Initiatives  
Parks Canada, Western and Northern Service Centre,  
300 - 300 West Georgia Street,  
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 6B4  
Phone: (604) 666-6797  
Mobile: (604) 202 - 2198

And Vicki's:  
Vicki Haberl  
First Nations Consultation Coordinator  
Southern Strait of Georgia National Marine Conservation Area Reserve  
Office: 604-898-3678, ext. 2227  
Cell: 604-849-3188

Megumi Johns does the consultations and communications for the project, and can add you to our email list to receive updates.

Any questions? Please call or email. I look forward to working with you!

Best regards,  
Debby Funk  
Parks Canada,  
Communications Manager, B.C. Initiatives  
603 Fort Rodd Hill Road, Victoria B.C. V9C 2W8  
Phone: 250.478.5135 Fax: 250.478.8415  
Mobile: 250.480.9106

100 years, Come Celebrate! 100 ans, Soyez de la fête!  
(Embedded image moved to file: pic22888.gif)

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**A southern Strait of Georgia National Marine Conservation Area**  
**...extending around Gabriola Island & into the Nanaimo Estuary**

**Quotes:**

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\*\*\*\*\*



LAURIE GOURLAY

2689 Cedar Road  
Nanaimo, BC  
V9X 1K3

To: Candidates for the City of Nanaimo & RDN Local Government Elections  
Re: National Marine Conservation Area - northern boundary proposal

October 17, 2011

Dear Fellow Candidates,

I hope you won't mind me contacting you at this time. I am concerned that the opportunity will be lost if we wait until after the election to raise support for a significant economic driver and conservation initiative for the City and Region.

I know you are all busy, as I am, working to be elected - but I think there is good reason to take pause over this matter. I think this opportunity calls upon us to set aside our differences and competitive spirit, so that Nanaimo and region might become part of a national initiative that promises to restore coastal and marine environments.

I am speaking about the proposal, just announced, for a southern Strait of Georgia National Marine Conservation Area. At present this proposal suggests a northern boundary that will end at the southern tip of Gabriola Island.

For many reasons I believe the City and Region would greatly benefit if the northern boundary was extended around Gabriola Island and into the Nanaimo estuary. I am then seeking your support for such a recommendation.

As I see it we have a wonderful opportunity to show the public how we might work together, bringing sustainable development into the heart of the RDN - implementing the fine words written in our official community plans and regional growth strategy.

But we need to act now. Late last week the federal Minister of the Environment announced that he was fast-tracking this proposal, with the BC Environment Minister's cooperation. There are only a few final details to go over.

For the region's benefit we can approach the Ministers together, indicating our wish to see the NMCA's northern boundary extend around Gabriola Island, and into the Nanaimo River estuary. A little cooperation, a chance to work together, and this election will see the City and Region well rewarded.

Together we can bring a strong message need to the federal and provincial environment Ministers - that the future elected leaders of the City of Nanaimo, and Regional District

Laurie Gourlay



Cedar, BC, (250) 722-3444

...putting communities first.

Thisfile@shaw.ca www.Thisfiledownload.com Page 36 of 57 MOE-2016-61047

of Nanaimo, agree and support and call for a northern boundary that will extend into the Nanaimo River estuary. That we want to work with them to bring this treasure home.

Last week I wrote to the City of Nanaimo's Economic Development Corporation, suggesting that an NMCA northern boundary into the Nanaimo River estuary would help "generate long-term prosperity across the mid island region and southern coast."

Over the past few years, as the President of a local non-profit society, MISSI, I have written many such letters to local governments and elected representatives. And the replies I have received suggest to me that a request from the City and Region would be welcomed by many in senior levels of government who support an extended NMCA.

Time is short however. If we are to be successful in attracting the jobs, economic and environmental benefits that accompany an NMCA we must let the Minister's know. We need to set aside personal aspirations during this election period, consider the City and region's needs, and the public interest - and act to present a formal proposal for the federal and provincial government's consideration.

I am then seeking your support - and suggestions on how to advance this proposal.

Ladysmith previously lobbied, successfully, to be included in this NMCA. All it takes is political will and support from local leaders.

My correspondence has also raised the possibility of securing a coastal marine interpretation centre, perhaps located overlooking the Nanaimo estuary. Such a gem would significantly further recommendations coming out of the Nanaimo River Symposium at VIU, hosted by NALT on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Corporate, government and public representatives at the Symposium looked at our region's future, and supported a northern boundary for the proposed NMCA that would extend to the Nanaimo River estuary. And letters went out last month to local mid island governments, as well as the City of Nanaimo and RDN, requesting their support for this proposal.

I would suggest that the stage is set, responsible parties informed - and that now all we need do is to act for the public's benefit.

And lest you think it is too large a request please let me add that I was fortunate enough to have proposed a 'Gulf Islands Biosphere Reserve' in just such a manner in the late 1980's. This proposal led to the creation of the Gulf Islands National Park that so many now enjoy and benefit from.

I firmly believe this NMCA will help restore our coastal marine habitat, encourage tourism and lead to a viable local sports fishing and industry based on sustainable harvesting. I think the City of Nanaimo and Regional District of Nanaimo should be a part of this substantial coastal initiative.

I am then asking all candidates in the City and RDN to support the proposal for an NMCA that extends into and around the Nanaimo River Estuary.

I intend to again write to the federal and provincial Environment Ministers this coming Monday, October 24th. As I did this summer I will invite the Ministers to visit Nanaimo in the new year, and organize a forum so they might speak about plans for a southern Strait of Georgia National Marine Conservation Area.

I am hoping, with your support, that they will use the event to announce a northern boundary that extends around Gabriola Island and into the Nanaimo estuary - and maybe a coastal marine interpretation centre too!

I would be very pleased to add your names and remarks to the letter I will be sending, and invite you to contact me accordingly, at your earliest opportunity.

I have attached a copy of the Minister's October 13th media release, and backgrounder on the proposed NMCA. I can also provide additional information at your request.

My best wishes to one and all.

Sincerely,

Laurie

Laurie Gourlay, 2689 Cedar Road, Nanaimo, BC, V9X 1K3, (250 722-3444) <Thistle@shaw.ca>

\*\*\*\*\*

*"Each generation is entitled to the interest on the natural capital but the principal should be handed on unimpaired"*  
- Canadian Conservation Commission, 1915

Reference: 157004

Laurie Gourlay  
2689 Cedar Road  
Nanaimo, BC V9X 1K3

Dear Mr. Gourlay:

RE: Southern Strait of Georgia National Marine Conservation Area

Thank you for your letter of October 25, 2011, regarding inclusion of the Nanaimo River estuary and the waters around Gabriola Island in the proposed Southern Strait of Georgia National Marine Conservation Area Reserve (NMCAR). I apologize for the delay in responding.

The Government of British Columbia is working with Parks Canada to complete the feasibility assessment for the proposed NMCAR. A key element of that work is identifying a boundary that is representative of the Strait of Georgia ecosystem, protects important ecosystems and habitats, and maintains economic opportunities for coastal communities.

In the coming months, Parks Canada and the Province will be consulting with First Nations, local governments, and key stakeholders to identify a boundary that best balances all these values. If an NMCAR is established following the conclusion of the feasibility assessment, the advice and input of individuals such as yourself will be given careful consideration in decisions about what the NMCAR boundary should be.

I understand that Parks Canada officials have offered to meet with the City of Nanaimo's Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability to discuss the proposed NMCAR. I look forward to hearing the outcome of those discussions.

Again, I wish to thank you for writing to inform me of your views. Input from individuals such as yourself is an important part of the feasibility assessment process.

Sincerely,

Lori Halls  
Assistant Deputy Minister

## Rice, Doreen ENV:EX

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**From:** WWW ENVMail ENV:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 28, 2012 12:27 PM  
**To:** 'Thistle@shaw.ca'  
**Cc:** 'peter.kent@parl.gc.ca'  
**Subject:** 157004 - Gourlay - RE: Southern Georgia Strait National Marine Conservation Area

Reference: 157004

February 28, 2012

Laurie Gourlay  
Email: [Thistle@shaw.ca](mailto:Thistle@shaw.ca)

Dear Mr. Gourlay:

Thank you for your letter of October 25, 2011, addressed to The Honourable Peter Kent, Federal Minister of the Environment, and the Honourable Terry Lake, Minister of Environment, regarding inclusion of the Nanaimo River estuary and the waters around Gabriola Island in the proposed Southern Strait of Georgia National Marine Conservation Area Reserve (NMCAR). I apologize for the delay in responding.

The Government of British Columbia is working with Parks Canada to complete the feasibility assessment for the proposed NMCAR. A key element of that work is identifying a boundary that is representative of the Strait of Georgia ecosystem, protects important ecosystems and habitats, and maintains economic opportunities for coastal communities.

In the coming months, Parks Canada and the Province will be consulting with First Nations, local governments, and key stakeholders to identify a boundary that best balances all these values. If an NMCAR is established following the conclusion of the feasibility assessment, the advice and input of individuals such as yourself will be given careful consideration in decisions about what the NMCAR boundary should be.

I understand that Parks Canada officials have offered to meet with the City of Nanaimo's Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability to discuss the proposed NMCAR. I look forward to hearing the outcome of those discussions.

Again, I wish to thank you for writing to inform me of your views. Input from individuals such as yourself is an important part of the feasibility assessment process.

Sincerely,

Lori Halls  
Assistant Deputy Minister

cc: The Honourable Peter Kent, Minister of the Environment



**From:** Thistle [mailto:Thistle@shaw.ca]  
**Sent:** October-26-11 11:05 AM  
**To:** peter.kent@parl.gc.ca; Lake.MLA, Terry  
**Subject:** Re: Southern Georgia Strait National Marine Conservation Area



**Laurie**

**Gourlay**

2689 Cedar Road  
Nanaimo, BC  
V9X 1K3

Hon. Dr. Terry Lake  
Minister of Environment  
Room 112, Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC, V8V 1X4  
[terry.lake.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:terry.lake.mla@leg.bc.ca)

Honourable Peter Kent  
Minister of the Environment  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6  
[peter.kent@parl.gc.ca](mailto:peter.kent@parl.gc.ca)

Re: Southern Georgia Strait National Marine Conservation Area

October 25, 2011

Minister Kent and Minister Lake,

I am writing to bring your attention to the support expressed from leaders in Nanaimo and the Regional District of Nanaimo for a northern boundary that would extend the proposed Southern Georgia Strait National Marine Conservation Area around Gabriola Island and into the Nanaimo estuary.

I have attached a selection of supportive comments from elected City and District representatives, as well as from a number of candidates in the local municipal elections now underway.

I would also draw your attention to the recommendations coming out of the Nanaimo River Symposium at VIU, hosted by the Nanaimo & Area Land Trust (Sept. 23-25). Corporate, government and public representatives at the Symposium looked at our region's future, and the importance of the Nanaimo River, and supported a northern boundary for the proposed NMCA that would extend into the estuary.

Leaders in the City and Regional District believe that the NMCA, a substantial coastal initiative, will help restore our coastal marine habitat, encourage tourism and lead to a viable local sports fishery and industry based on sustainable harvesting. The Nanaimo River and estuary are an important and vital part of the mid island's coastal health.

Given the support and interest, further consideration that would include this important estuary and river would be very welcome. December 11th is the 24<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Brundtland Commission's report on sustainable development being presented to the UN, and I would like to suggest that any date up to this would provide an excellent opportunity for a briefing on progress for the NMCA.

This would especially be appropriate given the 20th anniversary of the Rio Earth Summit approaching in June 2012 - offering an opportunity to 'think globally and act locally', while opening a dialogue with our new City Council and Regional Directors.

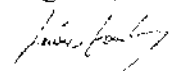
With this in mind then, and if it is not too much to ask, I would also like to extend an option - an invitation to you, as the Ministers responsible, to visit Nanaimo in the new year. A private meeting with stakeholders and leaders in the area could be arranged to hear about plans for the southern Strait of Georgia National Marine Conservation Area. Or, should you prefer, a public forum could be organized.

With your support I am sure that there would be a great deal of local interest in partnering to establish a northern boundary that extends around Gabriola Island and into the Nanaimo estuary. Opportunity to further interest in a coastal marine interpretation centre is also prominent here, and such a facility would provide outstanding means to educate the public about our coast and benefits being advanced by senior governments in furthering marine protection areas.

The exceptional rewards to all sectors and interests then, the immediate and long-term benefits, all suggest that much can be gained by deliberations that include Nanaimo and region within the present NMCA considerations.

Please accept my best wishes as work proceeds on this exciting initiative. And please do not hesitate to be in touch if I, or others in the area, might assist with information or other supportive efforts.

Regards,



Laurie Gourlay

- attachments: - replies from local candidates
- letter to local candidates
- summary backgrounder of NMCA benefits
- NAIT Symposium recommendations for NMCA

Laurie Gourlay, 2689 Cedar Road, Nanaimo, BC, V9X 1K3, (250 722-3444) <Thistle@shaw.ca>

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"All would be better off if each person took into  
account the effect of his or her acts upon others."  
World Commission on Environment & Development  
~~~~~ Our Common Future, 1987 ~~~~  
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## Rice, Doreen ENV:EX

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**From:** Lake.MLA, Terry <Terry.Lake.MLA@leg.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 18, 2011 2:59 PM  
**To:** Minister, ENV ENV:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Followup - Invitation for Sept 22nd Presentation re: a National Marine Conservation Area in the Gulf Islands.

**Categories:** Meeting/Invite Request

**From:** Thistle [mailto:Thistle@shaw.ca]  
**Sent:** July-18-11 7:48 AM  
**To:** Lake.MLA, Terry; Env.Minister@gov.bc.ca.  
**Subject:** Followup - Invitation for Sept 22nd Presentation re: a National Marine Conservation Area in the Gulf Islands.

Hon. Dr. Terry Lake  
Minister of Environment  
Room 112, Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC, V8V 1X4  
[terry.lake.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:terry.lake.mla@leg.bc.ca)

Honourable Peter Kent  
Minister of the Environment  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6  
[Env.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Env.Minister@gov.bc.ca).

Re: Gulf Islands National Marine Conservation Area

July 18, 2011

Minister Kent and Minister Lake,

We understand that you have very busy schedules and many demands upon your time.

We believe however that the proposed National Marine Conservation Area in the Gulf Islands is of great interest to both local and BC residents, as well as Canadian and international visitors. In this respect we would very much be interested in hearing further from you, or a representative of your Ministry.

We have copied our previous invitation below, to speak at a proposed September 22nd meeting -just before BC Rivers Day and a local weekend symposium that will look at the Nanaimo River.

Given that there is a little over two months to this public meeting we hope you won't mind if we again bring this opportunity to your attention. Your participation would contribute greatly to an appreciation of the mid-island marine environment and the potential it offers to sustainability and growth in mid Vancouver Island.

Best wishes,

Laurie Gourlay, President  
Mid Island Sustainability & Stewardship Initiative

P.O. Box 333, Cedar, B.C., V9X 1W1  
(250 722-3444) <[www.missimidisland.com](http://www.missimidisland.com)>

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On 07/06/2011 14:44, Thistle wrote:

Hon. Dr. Terry Lake  
Minister of Environment  
Room 112, Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC, V8V 1X4  
[terry.lake.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:terry.lake.mla@leg.bc.ca)

Honourable Peter Kent  
Minister of the Environment  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6  
[peter.kent@parl.gc.ca](mailto:peter.kent@parl.gc.ca)

Re: Gulf Islands National Marine Conservation Area

June 7, 2011

Minister Kent and Minister Lake.

We hope you're enjoying events and public support for World Oceans Day, and Canadian Environment Week!

Reports in the news suggest that the Governments of Canada and British Columbia may be in process of designating a National Marine Conservation Area in the Gulf Islands.

We would like to offer our support in furthering this work, and to raise two local considerations to your attention.

We have been in touch with Parks Canada offices, Mr. Bill Henwood, since 2007 with respect to the Gulf Islands NMCA proposal - and have provided a number of recommendations. We also believe that including local initiatives, presently underway, could offer new opportunities that complement and further the goals of a Gulf Islands National Marine Conservation Area.

Our interest, as a local organization, is to advance initiatives that serve sustainability and stewardship within the community and region. As such, working with conservation partners in cooperative ventures is essential.

In this respect we are involved with a number of conservation projects and coastal protective measures. Many of these are supportive of a local NMCA, while fostering complementary initiatives particular to the adjacent green lands of Cedar/Yellowpoint and the Nanaimo River watershed.

Without burdening you with details we would like to invite your consideration of two points at the present time. Should you wish further information we can of course make ourselves available, or provide a brief backgrounder for additional reference.

The first consideration we'd request is that of furthering estuarine benefits to the east coast of Vancouver Island by identifying the Gulf Islands NMCA northern boundary as embracing the Nanaimo River estuary.

We'd also note interest, previously expressed within the community of this area and from the Kulleet Band, for an information/educational centre in the adjacent Yellowpoint area. This centre could overlook and interpret the NMCA ...and perhaps serve for 'green corridor' and related initiatives noted below.

Our second request is based on the similarities of the process and goals for establishing a National Marine Conservation Area, and that of declaring a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

We would respectfully suggest that you extend your consideration of a Gulf Islands NMCA to a proposal that is underway for a neighbouring Coastal Communities Biosphere Reserve. (attached)

Combining both a marine and land-based model for conservation and sustainability, in this mid island coastal region, would be a substantial contribution to ecosystem protection - fostering conservation and sustainability goals that further economic and environmental development.

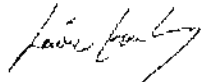
And finally, we would like to take this opportunity to extend an invitation to you or your representatives, to make a presentation about the NMCA and any related initiatives, on September 22nd. We have been planning an evening forum, open to the public, at the Vancouver Island University, just prior to BC Rivers Day. A weekend Symposium is to follow, organized by the Nanaimo and Area Land Trust, looking into opportunities for conservation in and around the Nanaimo River & watershed. Your presence would greatly enhance the success of these ventures.

We hope you may then look favourably upon these requests. The proposals offer positive means to open important conversations about conservation, and to engage the public in options to implement measures for sustainability.

The coast between Ladysmith harbour and Nanaimo harbour is one of the last large remaining rural areas of 'green lands and blue waters' in mid Vancouver Island - serving a growing population, and only a ferry's ride from the City of Vancouver. We believe that embracing these initiatives at this time would offer exceptional rewards to all sectors and interests, for the common good and long-term benefits.

Again then our best wishes in your deliberations about a Gulf Island NMCA. Should you have further questions we'd be pleased to provide details, at your request.

Regards,



Laurie Gourlay, President  
Mid Island Sustainability & Stewardship Initiative

P.O. Box 333, Cedar, B.C., V9X 1W1  
(250 722-3444) <[www.missimidisland.com](http://www.missimidisland.com)>

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"All would be better off if each person took into  
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World Commission on Environment & Development  
--- Our Common Future, 1987 ---  
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World Commission on Environment & Development

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**Rice, Doreen ENV:EX**

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**From:** Minister, ENV ENV:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, June 20, 2011 11:24 AM  
**To:** Correspondence Unit ENV:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Regarding a National Marine Conservation Area in the Gulf Islands.  
**Attachments:** Bio Rsrv - Coastal Communities Proposal, Mid Island leaflet, winter'2011.pdf; NMCA - Cedar & Ypt, Minister ltr, jn7'11.doc

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Orange Category

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**From:** Lake.MLA, Terry [mailto:Terry.Lake.MLA@leg.bc.ca]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 7, 2011 3:24 PM  
**To:** Minister, ENV ENV:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Regarding a National Marine Conservation Area in the Gulf Islands.

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**From:** Thistle [mailto:Thistle@shaw.ca]  
**Sent:** June-07-11 2:45 PM  
**To:** Lake.MLA, Terry; peter.kent@parl.gc.ca  
**Subject:** Regarding a National Marine Conservation Area in the Gulf Islands.

Hon. Dr. Terry Lake  
 Minister of Environment  
 Room 112, Parliament Buildings  
 Victoria, BC, V8V 1X4  
[terry.lake.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:terry.lake.mla@leg.bc.ca)

Honourable Peter Kent  
 Minister of the Environment  
 House of Commons  
 Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6  
[peter.kent@parl.gc.ca](mailto:peter.kent@parl.gc.ca)

Re: Gulf Islands National Marine Conservation Area

June 7, 2011

Minister Kent and Minister Lake,

We hope you're enjoying events and public support for World Oceans Day, and Canadian Environment Week!

Reports in the news suggest that the Governments of Canada and British Columbia may be in process of designating a National Marine Conservation Area in the Gulf Islands.

We would like to offer our support in furthering this work, and to raise two local considerations to your attention.

We have been in touch with Parks Canada offices, Mr. Bill Henwood, since 2007 with respect to the Gulf Islands NMCA proposal - and have provided a number of recommendations. We also believe that including local initiatives, presently underway, could offer new opportunities that complement and further the goals of a Gulf Islands National Marine Conservation Area.

Our interest, as a local organization, is to advance initiatives that serve sustainability and stewardship within the community and region. As such, working with conservation partners in cooperative ventures is essential.

In this respect we are involved with a number of conservation projects and coastal protective measures. Many of these are supportive of a local NMCA, while fostering complementary initiatives particular to the adjacent green lands of Cedar/Yellowpoint and the Nanaimo River watershed.

Without burdening you with details we would like to invite your consideration of two points at the present time. Should you wish further information we can of course make ourselves available, or provide a brief backgrounder for additional reference.

The first consideration we'd request is that of furthering estuarine benefits to the east coast of Vancouver Island by identifying the Gulf Islands NMCA northern boundary as embracing the Nanaimo River estuary.

We'd also note interest, previously expressed within the community of this area and from the Kulleet Band, for an information/educational centre in the adjacent Yellowpoint area. This centre could overlook and interpret the NMCA ...and perhaps serve for 'green corridor' and related initiatives noted below.

Our second request is based on the similarities of the process and goals for establishing a National Marine Conservation Area, and that of declaring a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

We would respectfully suggest that you extend your consideration of a Gulf Islands NMCA to a proposal that is underway for a neighbouring Coastal Communities Biosphere Reserve. (attached)

Combining both a marine and land-based model for conservation and sustainability, in this mid island coastal region, would be a substantial contribution to ecosystem protection - fostering conservation and sustainability goals that further economic and environmental development.

And finally, we would like to take this opportunity to extend an invitation to you or your representatives, to make a presentation about the NMCA and any related initiatives, on September 22nd. We have been planning an evening forum, open to the public, at the Vancouver Island University, just prior to BC Rivers Day. A weekend Symposium is to follow, organized by the Nanaimo and Area Land Trust, looking into opportunities for conservation in and around the Nanaimo River & watershed. Your presence would greatly enhance the success of these ventures.

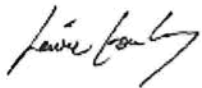
We hope you may then look favourably upon these requests. The proposals offer positive means to open important conversations about conservation, and to engage the public in options to implement measures for sustainability.

The coast between Ladysmith harbour and Nanaimo harbour is one of the last large remaining rural areas of 'green lands and blue waters' in mid Vancouver Island - serving a growing population, and only a ferry's ride from the City of Vancouver. We believe that embracing these initiatives at this time would offer exceptional rewards to all sectors and interests, for the common good and long-term benefits.

Again then our best wishes in your deliberations about a Gulf Island NMCA. Should you have further questions we'd be pleased to provide details, at your request.

Regards,





Laurie Gourlay, President  
Mid Island Sustainability & Stewardship Initiative

P.O. Box 333, Cedar, B.C., V9X 1W1  
(250 722-3444) <[www.missimidisland.com](http://www.missimidisland.com)>

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Hon. Dr. Terry Lake  
Minister of Environment  
Room 112, Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC, V8V 1X4  
terry.lake.mla@leg.bc.ca

Honourable Peter Kent  
Minister of the Environment  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6  
peter.kent@parl.gc.ca

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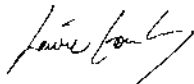
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Laurie Gourlay, President  
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P.O. Box 333, Cedar, B.C., V9X 1W1  
(250 722-3444) <[www.missimidisland.com](http://www.missimidisland.com)>

Page 52 to/à Page 53

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## EMAIL RESPONSE

Reference: 142944

Laurie Gourlay  
President  
Mid Island Sustainability and Stewardship Initiative  
Email: [thistle@shaw.ca](mailto:thistle@shaw.ca)

Dear Mr. Gourlay:

Thank you for your email of June 7, 2011, regarding the Southern Strait of Georgia National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA) feasibility study. I apologize for the delay in responding.

British Columbia (BC) and Canada continue to work together to complete the feasibility study for the proposed NMCA. Key decisions -- such as the final boundary of the area, if it is established, and the location of any facilities that may be developed, such as a visitor center--- have yet to be made. The input of community groups such as the Mid Island Sustainability and Stewardship Initiative is an important part of that process and will be fully considered when BC and Canada make a decision about whether or not an NMCA is feasible and desirable in the Southern Strait of Georgia.

I appreciate your invitation to make a presentation on the NMCA project on September 22, 2011, at Vancouver Island University. Such a presentation would be most appropriately made by Parks Canada staff, as they are leading the feasibility study process. I understand that Parks Canada has been in contact with you to determine whether a presentation on the September 22 would be possible.

Thank you again for writing and sharing your perspective on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Terry Lake,  
Minister of Environment

cc: Richard Carson, Director, Western Establishment Initiatives, Parks Canada

**Rice, Doreen ENV:EX**

---

**From:** Minister, ENV ENV:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, September 16, 2011 3:10 PM  
**To:** 'thistle@shaw.ca'  
**Cc:** 'richard.carson@pc.gc.ca'  
**Subject:** RE: Regarding a National Marine Conservation Area in the Gulf Islands.  
**Attachments:** Bio Rsr - Coastal Communities Proposal, Mid Island leaflet, winter'2011.pdf; NMCA - Cedar & Ypt, Minister ltr, jn7'11.doc

Reference: 142944

*September 16, 2011*

Laurie Gourlay  
President  
Mid Island Sustainability and Stewardship Initiative  
Email: [thistle@shaw.ca](mailto:thistle@shaw.ca)

Dear Laurie Gourlay:

Thank you for your email of June 7, 2011, regarding the Southern Strait of Georgia National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA) feasibility study. I apologize for the delay in responding.

British Columbia (BC) and Canada continue to work together to complete the feasibility study for the proposed NMCA. Key decisions – such as the final boundary of the area, if it is established, and the location of any facilities that may be developed, such as a visitor center—have yet to be made. The input of community groups such as the Mid Island Sustainability and Stewardship Initiative is an important part of that process and will be fully considered when BC and Canada make a decision about whether or not an NMCA is feasible and desirable in the Southern Strait of Georgia.

I appreciate your invitation to make a presentation on the NMCA project on September 22, 2011, at Vancouver Island University. Such a presentation would be most appropriately made by Parks Canada staff, as they are leading the feasibility study process. I understand that Parks Canada has been in contact with you to determine whether a presentation on the September 22 would be possible.

Thank you again for writing and sharing your perspective on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Terry Lake,  
Minister of Environment

cc: Richard Carson, Director, Western Establishment Initiatives, Parks Canada

**From:** Thistle [mailto:[Thistle@shaw.ca](mailto:Thistle@shaw.ca)]  
**Sent:** June-07-11 2:45 PM

**To:** Lake.MLA, Terry; peter.kent@parl.gc.ca

**Subject:** Regarding a National Marine Conservation Area in the Gulf Islands.

Hon. Dr. Terry Lake  
Minister of Environment  
Room 112, Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC, V8V 1X4  
[terry.lake.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:terry.lake.mla@leg.bc.ca)

Honourable Peter Kent  
Minister of the Environment  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6  
[peter.kent@parl.gc.ca](mailto:peter.kent@parl.gc.ca)

Re: Gulf Islands National Marine Conservation Area

June 7, 2011

Minister Kent and Minister Lake,

We hope you're enjoying events and public support for World Oceans Day, and Canadian Environment Week!

Reports in the news suggest that the Governments of Canada and British Columbia may be in process of designating a National Marine Conservation Area in the Gulf Islands.

We would like to offer our support in furthering this work, and to raise two local considerations to your attention.

We have been in touch with Parks Canada offices, Mr. Bill Henwood, since 2007 with respect to the Gulf Islands NMCA proposal - and have provided a number of recommendations. We also believe that including local initiatives, presently underway, could offer new opportunities that complement and further the goals of a Gulf Islands National Marine Conservation Area.

Our interest, as a local organization, is to advance initiatives that serve sustainability and stewardship within the community and region. As such, working with conservation partners in cooperative ventures is essential.

In this respect we are involved with a number of conservation projects and coastal protective measures. Many of these are supportive of a local NMCA, while fostering complementary initiatives particular to the adjacent green lands of Cedar/Yellowpoint and the Nanaimo River watershed.

Without burdening you with details we would like to invite your consideration of two points at the present time. Should you wish further information we can of course make ourselves available, or provide a brief backgrounder for additional reference.

The first consideration we'd request is that of furthering estuarine benefits to the east coast of Vancouver Island by identifying the Gulf Islands NMCA northern boundary as embracing the Nanaimo River estuary.

We'd also note interest, previously expressed within the community of this area and from the Kulleet Band, for an information/educational centre in the adjacent Yellowpoint area. This centre could overlook and interpret the NMCA ...and perhaps serve for 'green corridor' and related initiatives noted below.

Our second request is based on the similarities of the process and goals for establishing a National Marine Conservation Area, and that of declaring a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

We would respectfully suggest that you extend your consideration of a Gulf Islands NMCA to a proposal that is underway for a neighbouring Coastal Communities Biosphere Reserve. (attached)

Combining both a marine and land-based model for conservation and sustainability, in this mid island coastal region, would be a substantial contribution to ecosystem protection - fostering conservation and sustainability goals that further economic and environmental development.

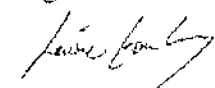
And finally, we would like to take this opportunity to extend an invitation to you or your representatives, to make a presentation about the NMCA and any related initiatives, on September 22nd. We have been planning an evening forum, open to the public, at the Vancouver Island University, just prior to BC Rivers Day. A weekend Symposium is to follow, organized by the Nanaimo and Area Land Trust, looking into opportunities for conservation in and around the Nanaimo River & watershed. Your presence would greatly enhance the success of these ventures.

We hope you may then look favourably upon these requests. The proposals offer positive means to open important conversations about conservation, and to engage the public in options to implement measures for sustainability.

The coast between Ladysmith harbour and Nanaimo harbour is one of the last large remaining rural areas of 'green lands and blue waters' in mid Vancouver Island - serving a growing population, and only a ferry's ride from the City of Vancouver. We believe that embracing these initiatives at this time would offer exceptional rewards to all sectors and interests, for the common good and long-term benefits.

Again then our best wishes in your deliberations about a Gulf Island NMCA. Should you have further questions we'd be pleased to provide details, at your request.

Regards,



Laurie Gourlay, President  
Mid Island Sustainability & Stewardship Initiative

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(250 722-3444) <[www.missimidisland.com](http://www.missimidisland.com)>

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"All would be better off if each person took into  
account the effect of his or her acts upon others."  
World Commission on Environment & Development  
--- Our Common Future, 1987 ---  
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