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JORDAN STURDY

Member of the Legislative Assembly
West Vancouver - Sea-to-Sky

September 6, 2016

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change
Mr. Daniel Watson, CEO, Parks Canada
Parks Canada National Office
30 Victoria Street
Gatineau, Quebec
Canada
J8X 0B3

Dear Minister McKenna and Mr. Watson

RE: GAMBIER ISLAND, BRITISH COLUMBIA – National Park Initiative

As the Member of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia for the constituency of West Vancouver -Sea to Sky and the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of the Environment of British Columbia, I am writing to express my support for Parks Canada to explore the feasibility of establishing a National Park in Howe Sound with a specific focus on Gambier Island and surrounding foreshore areas.

While I am well aware of past National Park initiatives in the region, I believe the time is now to revisit the potential of Howe Sound and review how a National Park could fit into the Sea to Sky framework. British Columbia's recent expansion of Gambier Island's Halkett Bay Provincial Marine Park to include a unique scuba accessible Glass Sponge Reef within the Park boundaries may in fact be an initiative that a National Park could build on.

Aside from augmenting the Coastal Western Hemlock biogeoclimatic zone in the Strait of Georgia Lowlands, a National Park in Howe Sound could complement the important role which the Sea to Sky plays as a near urban interface for visitors from around the world and as importantly, for the citizens of British Columbia and Metro Vancouver. As tourism is a significant economic driver in the region, a National Park may bring additional and well deserved attention and opportunity to the many and various attributes of the area.

The revitalization of Howe Sound after more than a century of industrial activity has been remarkable. A National Park may serve an important role in interpreting the past, understanding the present and envisioning a future where increasingly, economic choices and environmental impacts will need to be understood and articulated.

I offer my wholehearted support to Parks Canada and encourage the initiation of a study to determine if Gambier Island is an appropriate candidate for consideration of a National Park initiative.

If I may be of assistance to you or you have any questions please feel free to contact me at Jordan.sturdy.mla@leg.bc.ca.

Regards



Jordan Sturdy, MLA

West Vancouver – Sea to Sky

c.c. John Aldag, Member of Parliament for Cloverdale – Langley City

c.c. Pam Goldsmith-Jones, Member of Parliament for West Vancouver - Sunshine Coast - Sea to Sky Country