

From: Salish Sea Trust

Sent: Friday, September 29, 2017 4:55:23 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)

To: Salish Sea Trust; district@dist100milehouse.bc.ca; info@abbotsford.ca; mailbox@acrd.bc.ca; officeclerk@alertbay.ca; village.hall@anmore.com; info@cityofarmstrong.bc.ca; admin@ashcroftbc.ca; inquiry@barriere.ca; belcarra@belcarra.ca; bim@bimbc.ca; inquiries@rdbn.bc.ca; Postmaster; admin@cachecreek.info; info@campbellriver.ca; village@canalflats.ca; ssantarossa@crd.bc.ca; mailbox@cariboord.bc.ca; castlegar@castlegar.ca; info@ccrd-bc.ca; info@rdck.bc.ca; info@cord.bc.ca; municipalhall@csaanich.ca; chase@chasebc.ca; d-chet@gochetwynd.com; info@chilliwack.com; admin@docbc.ca; admin@village.clinton.bc.ca; inquiries@csrd.bc.ca; generalinquiry@colwood.ca; town@comox.ca; administration@comoxvalleyrd.ca; feedback@coquitlam.ca; info@courtenay.ca; cvrld@cvrd.bc.ca; hales@cranbrook.ca; info@creston.ca; admin@dawsoncreek.ca; clerks@delta.ca; duncan@duncan.ca; info@rdek.bc.ca; info@elkford.ca; info@cityofenderby.com; info@esquimalt.ca; cityhall@fernien.ca; district@fortstjames.ca; info@fortstjohn.ca

Subject: Dear Mayor & Council - Please consider BC, our Salish Sea Heritage, & House of Commons E-Petition 1269

Dear Mayor & Council,

You'll no doubt have gathered a lot of ideas from the UBCM meetings of this past week. We would like to add one more however - offering the balanced economic and environmental opportunity of our World Heritage Site application for the Salish Sea, and all the benefits which would follow.

Yesterday we invited BC MLAs, and Canada's MPs, to sign onto the federal E-Petition that would have the Salish Sea added onto Canada's Tentative List for UNESCO World Heritage Sites. The on-line House of Commons Petition is sponsored by BC MP Rachel Blaney, and follows from an application the Salish Sea Trust submitted to Parks Canada in May.

With this letter we would like to invite your consideration in personally signing e-Petition 1269 for the Salish Sea. And, if you deem it appropriate and within your capacity as an elected representative, we would welcome you making this Petition known to those in your communities. We have just two months remaining to convince the federal government of the importance in protecting the Salish Sea's heritage and outstanding universal values. In December the PM or Environment Minister will announce those WHS applications which will be approved to the Tentative List.

By way of providing a quick update and background please note that some 15,000 individuals expressed support for the Salish Sea World Heritage Site application previously - including MPs, MLAs, local governments and First Nations. Our website provides an overview as well as a copy of the application. And you may find our short intro to the World Heritage Site initiative of interest as well ...“Salish Sea - A Legacy Moment”: <https://vimeo.com/212160230>

Referred to:

Community Heritage Commission (2017.11.16)

Copy to:

Dir. Planning and Building

The Salish Sea WHS E-Petition serves to remind our federal representatives of the importance of the Salish Sea, and the considerable economic and environmental benefits that come from being recognized as a World Heritage Site - with cultural and natural protections the foundation of the proposal. The Lakes District in Britain, for example, sees overall tourism returns amounting to £2.2B, sustaining some 18,000 jobs. Their recent WHS cultural landscape designation is expected to add a minimum of £20M annually.

Cooperation and partnership, reconciliation and healing, sustainability and stewardship are similar priorities of the UNESCO World Heritage Site program – a program which requires all partners to agree, and a 6-10 year assessment and outreach process before approval may be given. The Salish Sea WHS application fits very specific targets of UNESCO's WHS program – including climate change, enabling indigenous communities, and ocean/marine health and revitalization. It is also of particular interest that the west coast of North America is under-represented in terms of WHS sites; and the potential for inter-jurisdictional and co-governance arrangements with WA/OR/CA coincides with present goals of consolidating coastal ecosystem-based management. Such management practices were embraced last year in the Great Bear Rainforest mid-coast agreement, and in the north coast Marine Plan Partnership. To our detriment the Salish Sea does not have a management plan in place at this time.

We can provide additional information with respect to the rationale, benefits and process particular to World Heritage Sites, and the Salish Sea in particular, on request. With this note however we simply wanted to invite you to show your support for the Salish Sea and its world-class heritage, by way of signing E-Petition 1269:

<https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-1269> FYI, we have provided a copy of this Petition below, along with our press release announcement.

Please feel free to contact us directly if you have questions.

best wishes,

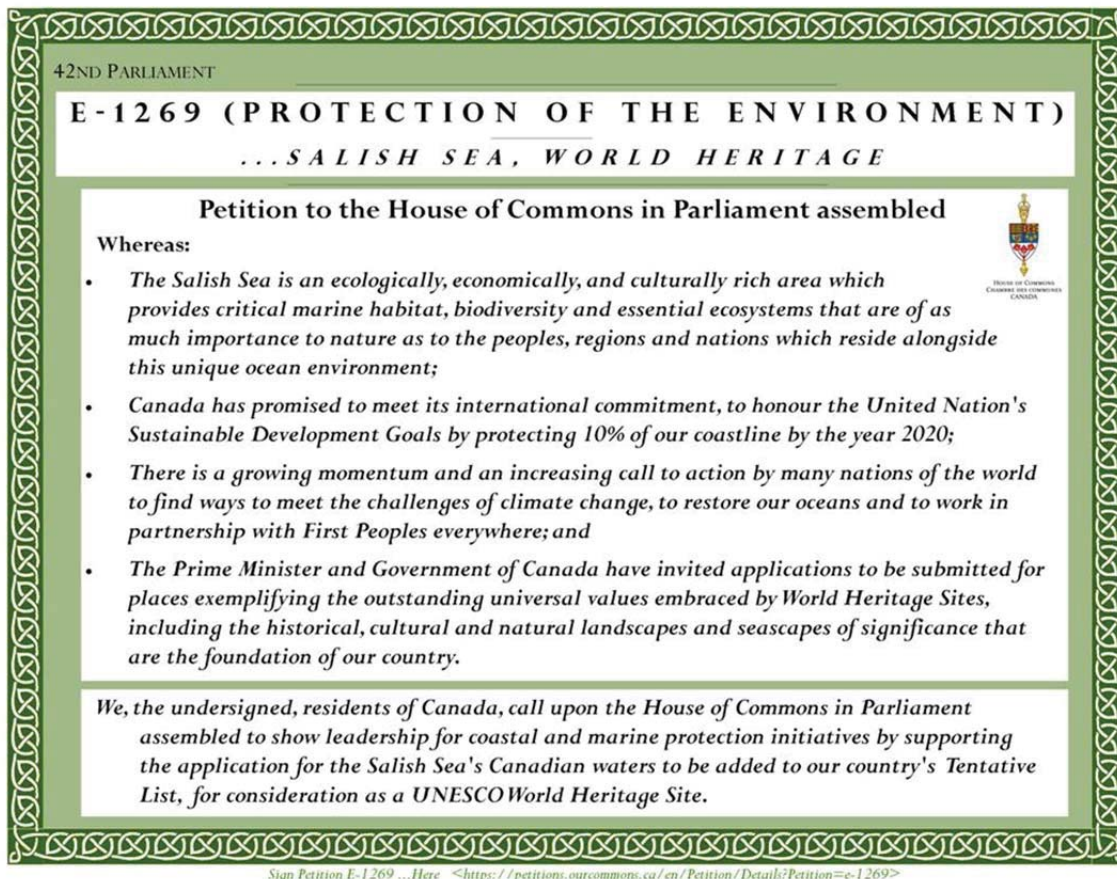
Laurie Gourlay
Interim Director
Salish Sea Trust

"The sea lives in every one of us." - Wyland

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250.722.3444, [<salishseatrust@shaw.ca>](mailto:salishseatrust@shaw.ca) (www.salishseatrust.ca)

Please Sign, & Circulate ...Press Release Posted Below.



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*Media Release  
For Immediate  
Release*

*Sept. 27, 2017*

**The Salish Sea Coasts Into The House of Commons  
E-Petition Calls For World Heritage Site Recognition**

[CEDAR, BC] – "The Salish Sea is ten weeks away from being recognized as a World Heritage Site," according to the ever-optimistic predictions of Laurie Gourlay, Interim Director of the Salish Sea Trust - the organization that submitted the UNESCO WHS application.

And just to be sure Canada's federal politicians appreciate the global significance of the Salish Sea's world-class heritage, MP Rachel Blaney is sponsoring their House of Commons on-line Petition E-1269. Blaney is MP for North Island - Powell River, and has a long history of working with coastal and indigenous communities.

"We want Parliamentarians to seize this legacy moment for Canada," says Gourlay. "To realize how important the Salish Sea is to the west coast's future, and to release the many economic

and environmental benefits that will accrue by recognizing it as a World Heritage Site."

Working with SeaLegacy the non-profit Salish Sea Trust submitted a World Heritage Site application to Parks Canada in May. Accompanied by 15,000 signatures of support this spring the Trust's Petition maintains that the Pacific Ocean gateway is vitally important to Canadians, and directly calls upon MP's to 'show leadership for coastal and marine protection initiatives'.

"We're doubling down, reaching out to Parliament and to all Canadians," Gourlay adds. "We want support from all who love the Salish Sea, who appreciate its diversity and beauty, and the incredible historical, cultural and natural values these west coast waters embody."

The Petition calls for UNESCO World Heritage Site designation to help protect some 3000 species in this unique inner ocean, along with recognition of a 10,000 year old First Nation culture that deserves honour and respect. All Canadians are invited to show their support.

A copy of House of Commons Salish Sea Petition E-1269 can be found at: <https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-1269>

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Further information:

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