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January 21, 2013

File Number: 6930 – Gambier docks

Ami Shah  
Programs Officer- Transport Canada  
#620 – 800 Burrard Street  
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2J8

**VIA EMAIL**

**Re: Divestiture of New Brighton Dock, Gambier Island**

Dear Ms Shah,

As Chair of the Gambier Local Trust Committee, I have been asked by that committee to write to you regarding the divestiture of the New Brighton federal dock facility. I understand that your department is already in a negotiating process with another party to take over management of the facility.

It is troubling that as the Local Government, responsible for all land decisions, including the zoning of waters adjacent to Gambier and associated islands, we were not involved in early stages and were not able to participate in the process to determine the future of this very important facility. As far as I know, your department has made no attempt to engage the local population in any type of discussion.

Of great concern here is that there has been no information about what possible divestiture of the New Brighton dock means. This is the most important transportation hub on the island. Islanders need to be reassured that there will be on-going public access to this dock at a reasonable rate; that the passenger ferry will continue to dock at New Brighton; and that the facility will be regularly maintained to recognized safety standards as has been our experience with Transport Canada.

The islands throughout the Howe Sound area have been hit hard by inordinately large ferry fare increases and access restrictions to both Langdale and Horseshoe Bay dock facilities. These developments, in conjunction with the possible New Brighton dock divestiture uncertainties, threaten the viability of these communities that have been here for a century or more.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

David Graham  
Chair, Gambier Island Local Trust Committee