



TOWN OF COMOX

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

February 3, 2021

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Comox Valley Regional District Board
770 Harmston Avenue
Courtenay, BC V9N 0G8

Sent via email only: rdyson@comoxvalleyrd.ca

Dear Chair Ketler and the Comox Valley Regional District Board,

Re: BC Clean Water Initiatives Funding Application

I am reaching out to request your support for the joint funding application to the 'Clean Coast, Clean Waters Initiative' Funding program (www.bccleancoast.ca), as offered by the Province of British Columbia.

The 'Clean Coast, Clean Waters Initiative' is being provided by the BC government as part of its far-ranging Pandemic Response and Economic Recovery initiative and funds from this initiative will support BC's work on addressing marine debris, as recommended in the 2020 What We Heard on Marine Debris in BC report, and the 2019 CleanBC Plastics Action Plan. In addition to the environmental outcomes of this initiative, important economic recovery outcomes include local job creation, hiring of local marine contractors, and stabilization of important industry dependent ecosystems.

The application is a joint submission between the Town of Comox and the Marine Tour Operators Association, and this funding will support the removal of derelict vessels from the shoreline, as well as those sunken in the ocean. The grant will focus on a broad geographic region from Deep Bay North to Discovery Islands including Comox Harbour. The applicants will incorporate strong regional collaboration with coastal communities and partner organizations.

If successful in obtaining this funding, the Town of Comox and the Marine Tour Operators Association, in consultation with the K'ómoks First Nation, will lead this initiative locally and be responsible for removing these derelict vessels from our coast.

The 'Clean Coast, Clean Waters Initiative' funding application window closes February 15, 2021, and we know that your letter of support will strengthen our application. We respectfully request your letters of support describing what a clean ocean means to your community by February 14, 2021, and we look forward to your response.

Yours truly

Russ Arnott
Mayor

We respectfully acknowledge that we live, work and play on the traditional lands of the K'ómoks First Nation ... Gila'kasla ... Hay ch q' a'