

Request to Appear as a Delegation

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Name of Delegation: Friends of Open Water Research

Name of Primary Contact Person: Kristen Peck

Name(s) of Delegation Member(s) in Attendance:

Kristen Peck and Melissa Chaun

Purpose of Delegation:

The purpose of this delegation is to bring awareness to the incredible work that has been done by the Open Water Research Station (OWRS) located at Reed Point Marina and seek support.

Details of Request:

Please see attached sheet for details of request.

Requested motion:

THAT Staff be directed to assist Friends of the Open Water Research Station in the establishment of a non-profit society, in intergovernmental outreach, and in 2020 fundraising efforts,

AND THAT Port Moody Council supports the re-launch of a marine research station in Port Moody,

AND THAT Port Moody Council supports the concept of a future large-scale world-class marine research station in partnership with post-secondary institutions.

Additional Information in Support of Request:

Please see attached letter as additional information in support of request.

Purpose of Delegation:

The purpose of this delegation is to bring awareness to the incredible work that has been done by the Open Water Research Station (OWRS) located at Reed Point Marina and seek support.

Following budget cuts that have mothballed the current iteration of the station, our goal is to re-launch an evolved version of the Station by integrating university and post secondary level research with grade-appropriate K-12 programming for students of all ages, as well as the general public.

We envision a *Version 2* of the station as a partnership between:

- Post-secondary institutions – both those that operated here before, as well as others interested in bringing their research here,
- Local School Districts – incorporating K-12 science and social studies curriculums,
- Local First Nations – providing a platform for research, as well as outreach to the general public, and K-12 students via social studies curriculum integration,
- Reed Point Marina – who have been gracious enough to provide below-market lease rates,
- Reed Point Marine Education Centre – years of providing K-12 programming space,
- Local Government – integrating with city and local events, letting this unknown gem shine.

We plan to open this facility in a fully operational form by year's end, allowing undergraduate students from several universities to continue conducting world-class research in the field of marine biology, while inspiring a new generation of scientists through K-12 programming, and connecting the broader community with their local ecosystem.

Up to this point, scientists at the station have generated groundbreaking discoveries with the help of their trained, not tamed, Steller sea lions. We hope to coordinate with the Ocean Wise / Vancouver Aquarium to form long-lasting partnerships within the City of Port Moody, and hope to see the return of these majestic animals to the Station.

Looking further ahead, our goals are twofold: First, we hope to raise enough money to incorporate a Marine Mammal Rehabilitation Centre function, which would bring in a variety of marine mammals that can be observed and studied as we continue to answer important questions about our watershed. Second, we aspire towards a larger *Version 3* of the Station as part of a more substantial investment by post-secondary institutions in Port Moody, which we are told is in the works on multiple fronts by the City.

Details of Request:

We are requesting assistance from the City of Port Moody to help us in the creation of a non-profit, the *Salish Sea Research and Education Society*. We would appreciate guidance and the knowledge of city staff to progress in this project. It would also be wonderful to have the support of Port Moody City Council as we work to expand the scope of the facility and as we bring science learning to students and the wider community, and advocate for future evolution.

Recommended Motion:

THAT Staff be directed to assist Friends of the Open Water Research Station in the establishment of a non-profit society, in intergovernmental outreach, and in 2020 fundraising efforts,

AND THAT Port Moody Council supports the re-launch of a marine research station in Port Moody,

AND THAT Port Moody Council supports the concept of a future large-scale world-class marine research station in partnership with post-secondary institutions.

Dear Mayor and Council,

We write to you as community members who are both concerned and willing to help. Port Moody has been home to UBC's Open Water Research Station (OWRS), located at Reed Point Marina, for nearly two decades. Known to many as Port Moody's best kept secret, this research powerhouse has advanced scientific knowledge by studying marine mammals, ocean health and potential impacts of climate change. At this time, the facility sits dormant due to budgetary cuts by its original partner (Ocean Wise).

Inspired by the Station's legacy, we plan to re-launch and expand the facility into the new Salish Sea Conservation & Education Centre that will:


- continue UBC's world-renowned marine research,
- provide a collaborative platform for new post-secondary academic partners,
- inspire a new generation of scientists by leveraging Reed Point Marine Education Centre's (RPMEC) years of experience providing K-12 programming, and
- better connect the wider community with the Burrard Inlet ecosystem through outreach and event support.

Friends of the Open Water Research Station have facilitated a number of site-tours with representatives from SD43 and the Vancouver School Board, both of whom have indicated interest in this initiative. (SD42, the private school sector and Montessori will also be approached for potential partner programming.) Reed Point Marina continues to provide generous support to both the OWRS and the RPMEC, and wants to see the scientific and educational endeavours expand. An initial meeting with Tsleil-Waututh Nation representatives yielded interest in potential partnering for educational programming, ongoing research and monitoring, and community outreach.

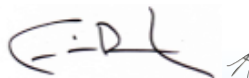
Friends of the Open Water Research Station, therefore, is developing a business plan to re-open the facility as early as June-July 2020 with a pilot summer camp program, and the subsequent goal of reopening the Station in time for the 2020/21 school year.


We write seeking support from the City of Port Moody in the form of staff assistance to help establish a non-profit society, reach out to other levels of government including neighbouring local governments, school districts, and senior levels of government for potential partnership, and to bolster future fundraising initiatives related to the Station's re-launch. Finally, we ask for principled support from city council for our re-launch efforts, and for our future vision of a large-scale, world-class research facility that would truly put Port Moody on the map for decades to come.

Thank you for your consideration, and for everything you do for the betterment of our community.


Melissa Chaun
Friends of OWRS


Kristen Peck
Friends of OWRS



Fin Donnelly
Former MP and Critic:
Fisheries and Oceans
Port Moody Coquitlam
Founder, Chair
Rivershed Society of BC


Rod MacVicar
Reed Point Marine
Education Centre


Ruth Foster
Environmental
Educator


Jillian Harris
President
Reed Point Marina


Dr. Andrew Trites
Professor and Director
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Dr. Quirien Mulder
T.A.L.O.N.S. Program Coordinator
School District 43

