



Dear Minister Cantelon.

This photograph of a mega yacht leaving Victoria Harbour was taken from the 3rd floor of a condominium building on Erie Street. The area for a proposed marina for such mega yachts can be seen on the far shore. This yacht is about the height of a three storey building and, if moored in the location of this proposed marina and allowing for the state of the tide (low in this picture), its Bridge deck would be as high, if not higher, than the roof line of the two storey town-houses seen in the background!!

Try and imagine ten or twenty of such yachts moored in the proposed location, (I believe this marina will be able to take up to fifty), it would be a disaster, a terrible blight on the landscape. A marina full of these huge yachts would totally destroy the seascapes presently enjoyed by people using the Westsong Walkway along the Songhees shoreline, not to mention the degradation of the quality of life of those people living over there.

A marina of this size and in this location would have a negative impact on the harbour itself and on the vessels and people who use it. It would block off the area presently used by non-motorised craft, (kayaks, canoes, row-boats etc.), forcing them out in to the busy part of the harbour. It would destroy the wildlife habitat along that part of the shore. It would create one more hazard for the float planes, removing an escape area in the case of a bad landing. The rebounding of waves off the proposed breakwater will create additional hazards for all marine traffic, especially small craft. The environmental issues surrounding the construction and dredging required for this proposal have not been adequately addressed. The list goes on, as I'm sure you are aware.

The point is, do we need or want this type of marina in this location? The answer is NO.

Every opinion that I have seen or read has been against this proposed marina. So why is it even being considered? Why don't we stop it now before it goes any further?

The key to this proposal proceeding lies in the acquisition by the developer of a 6.42 acre (2.6 hectare) water lease owned by The Province. I urge you, Minister Cantelon, do not grant this lease to Community Marine Concepts Group. Listen to the people of this city and the visitors who come here. Do not pave the way for a development that panders to a tiny minority at the expense of the vast majority. Stop this proposal now before an invaluable part of our harbour and our heritage is lost for ever.

Yours sincerely, Geoff Stewart.