



January 16, 2021

The Honourable Douglas Routley
MLA, Nanaimo-North Cowichan
PO Box 269
Ladysmith, BC V9G 1A2

Re: Shoreline erosion at Gabriola Sands Provincial Park

Dear Mr. Routley:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Board of Gabriola Land and Trails Trust (GaLTT) regarding an ongoing and unaddressed shoreline erosion issue at Gabriola Sands Provincial Park.

I previously wrote to Monica Valdes Garcia (then Area Supervisor for BC Parks) in October 2019 about soil erosion, root exposure and at-risk infrastructure at this location caused by wave action. At that time, I requested that steps be taken to mitigate further damage and asked for information about strategies that BC Parks had developed to address future shoreline erosion of provincial parkland caused by anticipated sea level rise. I was told my letter had been referred to a conservation specialist and that I would be contacted after recommendations had been developed. I have heard nothing since that time.

This letter is prompted by further damage caused by recent high tides and strong winds at the same location. Gabriolans are upset that the Pilot Bay side of this popular provincial park is slowly being lost to the ocean and have expressed increasing frustration with BC Parks for their continued inaction. Ironically, GaLTT recently received a Park Enhancement Fund grant from BC Parks to improve accessibility at Pilot Bay for people with mobility challenges. The significant improvements being made to the trails, picnic tables, and toilet by GaLTT volunteers will be at risk if action is not taken soon to prevent further shoreline damage.

GaLTT is a charitable, non-profit society focused on conservation and protection of natural habitats, development and maintenance of public trails, and public education regarding conservation and outdoor recreation issues. Our volunteers are eager to assist with a project approved by BC Parks to address this ongoing shoreline erosion issue.

Yours truly,

Rob Brockley
President, Gabriola Land & Trails Trust

cc: The Hon. George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Mr. Michael Grandbois, Area Supervisor, BC Parks