



March 28, 2023

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau  
Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

The Honourable David Eby  
Premier of British Columbia  
PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

Dear Prime Minister and Premier,

**Re: Local Channel Dredging in the Lower Fraser River**

Almost two years have passed since we wrote about local channel dredging and the critical need for a long-term strategy to deal with the issue. A copy of our previous letter from June 17, 2021 is attached for your information.

Since then, the situation in the local channels has worsened as each annual freshet brings more sediment down the Fraser River into the side channels. Access to many of our businesses, marinas, and float-home communities is only possible at high tide, and the safe movement of watercraft around the Fraser River estuary is being jeopardized.

In the absence of regular maintenance dredging, the benefits of the \$10 million dredging program in 2013 have largely been extinguished, and we are compelled, once again, to undertake one-off dredging projects to address urgent safety concerns in the channels as they arise.

A Working Group has been re-established, with representatives from local governments, the BC government, the Federal Government, Metro Vancouver, Steveston Harbour Authority, and the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority (VFPA), to develop a pilot project that may serve as a model for other waterfront communities across Canada; however, federal government support is needed to help develop a long-term funding and management model for the project.

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A recent discussion paper from VFPA (copy attached) estimates that annual funding of \$2.5 million would ensure that the local channels around our communities remain stable and safe for navigation for years to come.

Once again, we are urging the Federal and Provincial governments to work collaboratively with local governments and First Nations and to commit appropriate resources so that we find a more efficient and cost-effective solution to this ongoing issue. Specifically, it would be extremely helpful if a lead Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) staff member join the Working Group, to help work through some of the regulatory approval challenges, and to help develop a long-term dredging maintenance strategy and funding model for the lower Fraser River and its local channels.

Yours truly,



George V. Harvie  
Mayor



Mayor Malcolm Brodie  
City of Richmond



Chief Laura Cassidy  
Tsawwassen First Nation



Chief Wayne Sparrow  
Musqueam Indian Band

Enclosure

cc: The Honourable Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Employment, Workforce  
Development and Disability Inclusion  
The Honourable Joyce Murray, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian  
Coast Guard  
The Honourable Ravi Kahlon, Minister of Housing, MLA Delta North  
Parm Bains, MP Steveston-Richmond East  
Ian Paton, MLA Delta South  
Kelly Greene, MLA Richmond-Steveston  
Robin Silvester, President and CEO, Vancouver Fraser Port Authority  
Delta Council  
Sean McGill, City Manager