

**REPORT TO ELECTORAL AREA SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, 05 OCTOBER 2011**

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**SUBJECT**      **Heritage Lighthouse Protection Act**

**ISSUE**

BC Heritage Branch, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNR) staff are promoting the Heritage Lighthouse Protection Act on behalf of Parks Canada and have asked the Capital Regional District (CRD), other local government agencies, and First Nations to explore if their communities are interested in:

- 1) nominating various lighthouses for "Heritage Status" and,
- 2) if there is any interest in acquiring any of the "surplus" lighthouse locations.

**BACKGROUND**

The Heritage Lighthouse Protection Act is a law designed to protect federally owned lighthouses that have significant heritage value. Residents of Canada can have a say in the future of lighthouses by signing petitions requesting the heritage designation of lighthouses that are important to them. This process is for both "surplus" and "non surplus" locations and petitions will be accepted until May 29, 2012. As of June 30, 2011, only 3 of 30 identified sites had been nominated in BC.

In May, 2010, the Federal government declared that approximately one thousand of its lighthouses across the country, including eighteen in the Pacific Region, were "surplus" to operational requirements. It is recognized that while these lighthouses may no longer be required by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, many still hold real or potential social or economic value to their local communities. Processes are in effect until May 29, 2015 for persons or a body to commit to buy or otherwise acquire the lighthouse and protect the heritage character.

A list of the locations that was sent to the CRD and Islands Trust (IT) for consideration can be found in Appendix A. The geographical locations of each site can be found in Appendix B.

Program details can be found at <http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/progs/lhn-nhs/pp-hl/index.aspx>. I have also attached an information sheet from Parks Canada as Appendix C.

**ALTERNATIVES**

That the Electoral Area Services Committee:

1.      Accept this report for information; or
2.      Accept this report and forward the same to any known parties who might be interested in participating in the processes; or
3.      Accept this report and direct staff to proceed to facilitate the process for specified locations.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

### **SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The deadline for nomination for Heritage Status is May 29, 2012. If a location is missed or not nominated, the location may be subject to disposal by the Federal Government at a future date.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

Lighthouses may be subject to environmental contamination (mercury, lead). It is unknown what the impact of this would be on those obtaining the surplus locations.

### **ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS**

Staff understand that because this act resulted from a “private members bill”, there will not be any funding for operations from the Federal Government for any of the surplus locations. It is unknown what costs are associated with the operation of each of the sites.

For Surplus locations, business plans may take on many forms including purchase and long term lease arrangements.

Some of the sites may have access issues. In addition, it is uncertain if the CRD has the authority or the resources to manage these sites.

### **INTERGOVERNMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

The nomination process may result in multiple nominations and business plans from different agencies and groups.

## **CONCLUSION**

It is anticipated that some of these sites might have historical, architectural or community value to some communities and organizations that might not be aware of this program. It is recommended that this information be forwarded to any known parties that may have interest in participating in the process.

The deadline for nomination is fast approaching. Staff from FLNR have offered their services to assist with clarification of the issues and to provide input to the federal process.

## **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

To accept this report and forward the same to any known parties who might be interested in participating in the process.

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Diana Lokken, Dip Bus Admin, CMA  
General Manager – Corporate Services  
Concurrence

### Attachments:

- A. Lighthouses identified as eligible for “Heritage Nomination”
- B. Map: “Lighthouses of Interest”
- C. Lighthouses identified as eligible for “Heritage Nomination”

**Lighthouses identified as eligible for “Heritage Nomination”:**

The following is a list provided to the CRD by Heritage Branch:

NAME	LOCATION	Status	Comments
Brotchie Ledge	off Ogden Point, Vic.	unknown	
Discovery Island	off Oak Bay	Surplus	
Fisgard Lighthouse	off Colwood (Fort Rodd Hill)	Not Surplus	
Kelp Reefs	off Oak Bay	Surplus	
Race Rocks	off Victoria	Surplus	
San Juan Point	off Port Renfrew	Surplus	
Sheringham Point	off Shirley	Surplus	Already nominated
Trial Island	off Oak Bay	Not Surplus	
Whiffin Spit	off Sooke	unknown	

The following is a list provided to the Island Trust by Heritage Branch:

NAME	LOCATION	Status	Comments
Active Pass Lightstation	off Mayne Island	Not Surplus	Program info has been provided to Islands Trust Local Trust Committee
East Point Lightstation	off Saturna Island	Not Surplus	Program info has been provided to Islands Trust Local Trust Committee
Porlier Pass Range Rear	off Galiano Island	Surplus	Program info has been provided to Islands Trust Local Trust Committee
Portlock Point Lightstation	off Prevost Island	Not Surplus	Program info has been provided to Islands Trust Local Trust Committee

**This list may not be complete ... if other locations are known, please contact Parks Canada for clarification.**