



Reference: 42365

July 18, 2024

VIA EMAIL: A.Olsen@leg.bc.ca

Adam Olsen, MLA, Saanich North and the Islands
9828 Fourth Street
Sidney, British Columbia
V8L 2Z3

Dear MLA Olsen:

Thank you for your letter of June 6, 2024, regarding private moorage in the southern Gulf Islands.

The delayed adjudication of private moorage applications in the Southern Gulf Islands and concerns about their cumulative impacts in the marine environment are top of mind for my Ministry. We acknowledge that long delays in the authorizations process have frustrated applicants and created undue uncertainty, and we appreciate you reaching out to convey the interests and expectations of your constituents for a lasting solution.

We share your commitment to reconciliation and shared stewardship of natural resources with First Nations. We also commit to working with Quw'utsun Nation to co-develop an approach to managing private moorage in the southern Gulf Islands, that addresses concerns about impacts on marine values and upholds British Columbia (B.C.)'s commitments under the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples' Act*. Meaningful engagement with other impacted First Nations, as well as the public and stakeholder groups, will also be a critical part of this planning process and will begin after the election.

We agree that leveraging existing relationships and collaborative tables in this work may lend efficiencies and support improved coordination in this complex region. Staff leading work on private moorage strategic planning are working closely with both the Coastal Marine Stewardship team and the Saanich Inlet Collaborative Indigenous Stewardship Forum, to understand potential synergies and leverage government-to-government relationships with First Nations.

We understand that other agencies, including Parks Canada and Transport Canada, have also established government-to-government tables with First Nations, to address issues under their jurisdiction such as the Gulf Islands National Park Reserve and coastal marine shipping.

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While Ministry of Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship staff connect regularly with these tables to support coordination across levels of government, government-to-government tables specific to B.C.'s areas of responsibility remain important governance forums.

Again, we appreciate your considerable experience with the Southern Gulf Islands region and thank you for writing to share your concerns and provide input.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nathan Cullen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nathan" and last name "Cullen" clearly distinguishable.

Nathan Cullen
Minister

pc: Honourable Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation