

Urgent: Your Voice is Needed to Protect Our Community - Proposed Dock Management Changes Require Attention

Dear Pender Harbour and the Sunshine Coast Community,

The Pender Harbour and Area Residents Association is writing to bring your attention to a matter of urgency concerning proposed changes to the shíshálh swiya (Sunshine Coast) Dock Management Plan. Your immediate involvement can make a pivotal difference.

Critical Situation Overview: The government has introduced proposed amendments to the Dock Management Plan, impacting existing docks and introducing new regulations. This not only affects our docks but also our shared community identity and the well-being of waterfront property owners throughout the entire swiya.

Updated Dock Management Plan Information:

- **Ban on Boathouses:** The new rules will ban all non-commercial boathouses and stipulate that existing boathouses must be removed at owners expense at the end of their current interim tenure. Previously, boathouses were allowed.
- **Float size restrictions:** Floats will be limited to 30m² (323 sq ft), with no width restrictions. Note many recently approved docks will not meet this requirement.
- **Application to All Docks in the swiya:** The government has clarified that the new rules will apply to all docks in the shíshálh swiya, not just in Pender Harbour.
- **Freshwater Docks on Lakes:** The government has further clarified that new rules will also apply to docks on all freshwater lakes in the swiya.
- **Submission Deadline and Reference Number:** Your comments are pivotal. Use reference number #2412772 and submit your thoughts by December 15, 2023. [Click Here](#). Please keep all comments and feedback respectful.

Immediate Concerns:

- **Limited Review Time:** A 22-day consultation period has been granted, leaving residents with insufficient time to understand and respond adequately to the proposed changes. This time period does not allow for fair, true and equitable consultation.
- **Boathouse Ban and Float Size Reduction:** The sudden ban on boathouses and the reduction in the maximum float size to 30m² (323 sq ft) present immediate challenges for property owners, creating uncertainty moving forward.
- **Newly Approved Docks Now Non-Compliant:** Shockingly, some docks recently approved will no longer be compliant under these new rules, highlighting the arbitrary nature of the proposed changes.
- **Protection for Existing Docks:** It is important we advocate for the protection of existing docks, some of which have been in place for many decades, from

retroactive compliance measures to prevent unnecessary financial burdens on responsible property owners.

PHARA Recommendations

PHARA is compiling a set of recommendations and responses to the new requirements. These recommendations will seek to protect the interests of waterfront property owners to enjoy their property while respecting the environment and minimizing the impact on archeological resources in the area.

In particular these recommendations will focus on:

- Ensuring that there is adequate flexibility in dock sizes to accommodate the diverse requirements of property owners
- Ensuring existing docks and boathouses that have been previously approved are grandfathered into the new rules

Immediate Action Steps: To make your voice heard, we ask you to take the following action:

- **IMPORTANT!! Submit Comments:** [Click Here](#) to share your thoughts on the proposed amendments. Reference #2412772. Deadline: December 15, 2023. Please keep all comments and feedback respectful.
- **Attend SCRD Meeting:** On November 30th, the government will present changes to the Dock Management Plan. Attend the meeting to voice your concerns.
- **Reach Out to MLA Nick Simons** (Nicholas.Simons.MLA@leg.bc.ca): Express your concerns about the proposed changes and seek support.

PHARA board meeting with BC government officials

The PHARA board is due to meet with BC government officials in early December to share feedback from residents. We ask that, after you have shared your feedback, [Click Here](#), and also send us an email at board@phara.ca. We will collect questions and feedback and present them to the BC government at our meeting.

Access More Information: For comprehensive details on the proposed amendments, supporting documents, and maps, [Click Here](#).

Your involvement can shape the destiny of our community. Thank you for your swift attention and commitment to preserving the essence of our shared home.

— The Pender Harbour and Area Residents Association (phara.ca)