



photo: Union of BC Municipalities



A WIN FOR COASTAL COMMUNITIES by Alexandra Woodsworth

Elected officials unanimous in support for stronger oil spill preparedness

At the Union of BC Municipalities convention this past September, local government leaders from big cities, small towns and regional districts voted unanimously in favour of strengthening [community oil spill preparedness](#). They were voting on a resolution tabled by the City of Vancouver, which you, GSA and other supporters have championed throughout 2015.

Resolution A4 calls for:

- 1 More resources and training for local governments to prepare for oil spills, putting them in a stronger position to manage the impacts of a spill in their community.
- 2 A meaningful seat at the table for local governments in federal oil spill response planning, which has all too often failed to include local governments and citizen voices.
- 3 Oil spill emergency response plans that recognize the vital role that local governments play in a coordinated response, and the provision of adequate compensation for the costs they may incur.

This unanimous endorsement signals that communities and citizens are no longer prepared to be sidelined on an issue that affects them directly. You expect the new federal government to provide communities with the tools and resources they need to be in the best possible position to protect public safety and the environment in the face of increasing oil and other shipping traffic.

Now that the resolution has passed, the changes it calls for will be brought directly to provincial and federal decision makers by UBCM and local government champions—and GSA will continue to push hard to make sure that community oil spill preparedness is a top priority for all three levels of government.

continue reading on page 5

photo: Evan Leeson, flickr

IN THIS ISSUE



WATER'S EDGE DAY
page 4

photo: Laurie MacBride



CONSERVATION WORKS
page 8



BIRTHDAY PARTIES!
page 6



OUR GIFT TO YOU
and a message from Robert Bateman
page 12

THE POWER OF HOPE by Christianne Wilhelmson, Executive Director

It feels just a little bit brighter today.

The October federal election results have brought an end to a period of great darkness for civil society. If that sounds melodramatic, I can tell you first-hand, that it is not. Environmental groups were deemed enemies of the state, attacked, and shackled with administrative burdens to limit effectiveness, while having all doors to collaboration closed with the federal government. With the recent change in Ottawa comes a time of hope, and the expectation that GSA can return to what it does best: hold governments to account and build better and healthier communities; together. I'm not naïve about the path ahead (we've been here before) but now GSA can return to the business at hand, the one you support the organization doing—and that genuinely fills me with excitement and optimism.

In the past when GSA developed campaign strategies, they had always included ways to engage and pressure the federal government. With so many of the organization's issues residing in the realm of federal jurisdiction, it was a key part of many strategies. Those initiatives entailed engaging Members of Parliament locally as well as key government MPs in Ottawa. Relationships were developed within government and across party lines in an effort to create change on issues that impacted the Strait of Georgia. It also included working with you to apply pressure on governments so they'd take action to better protect our local waters. However, over the last 10 years that aspect of the work gradu-

The new government will hear how you want to protect our local waters, wildlife and communities from ill-thought out projects.

ally diminished to the point that GSA rarely reached out to government MPs during the past four years. No one was listening. Environmental conservation had been deemed an impediment to economic growth, and the organization began defending itself from government attacks on the issues and on how it ran and executed initiatives. During these very dark times, the organization found strength in provincial and local efforts to protect our waters, always aware that an important part of the conversation could not be undertaken without the unwavering backing of supporters like you.



Let's get back to dialogue with the feds

With a new government settling into Ottawa that does not see civil society as the enemy and that has more open views toward issues related to a healthy environment and communities, opportunities are being seen where none existed for many years.

Working with a government in areas where there is agreement, and encouraging—even demanding—change where there isn't, is something GSA does very well. In the last 10 years, the organization has focused those efforts on provincial and local governments where conversations were possible, and it's something that will continue. But today, I'm looking forward to strengthening muscles that have not been used in far too long, to bring leadership on climate change, environmental protection and economic development, which has sustainability as a core value, back to the federal landscape. The path will not be easy, but having optimism that conversations and collaboration are possible is such a wonderful feeling.

Your concerns are GSA's priority and I'm prepared to hold the government's feet to the fire because you want a better future for this region. Thanks for your support, and I hope you'll continue on this journey as GSA invests in new ways of taking action.

Welcome to a new day.



UNEXPECTED TURNS ON THE KINDER MORGAN ROLLERCOASTER

by Alexandra Woodsworth

From an industry appointee to the National Energy Board to the Liberal's campaign promise to change the environmental assessment process

There are many twists and turns in the [Kinder Morgan pipeline review](#). While you want to see this pipeline stopped once and for all, GSA keeps updating you because [the project](#) continues to experience delays—and that means we're winning!

A significant curve-ball came in the hazy days of late August when, on the day before Kinder Morgan was due to give its final argument and only a few weeks before oral hearings were to begin in Burnaby, the National Energy Board (NEB) suddenly halted the entire review process. Why? Because it emerged that the federal government's newest NEB appointee, Mr. Stephen Kelly, was the author of a key Kinder Morgan submission that supported the economic justification for the pipeline expansion.

But isn't that a gigantic conflict of interest? Yes, it is. Regardless of the fact that Mr. Kelly will not actually sit on the three-member NEB panel in charge of

the Kinder Morgan review, he has met the panel members in the past, and the very fact that a Kinder Morgan consultant could be appointed to the NEB during the review of a controversial proposal put forward by the same company reinforces the widely held perception of a revolving door between the pipeline industry and its government regulator.

The NEB attempted to stave off further bad press and legal challenges by 'striking' Mr. Kelly's evidence from the hearing record, and asking Kinder Morgan to carry out a replacement study. However, it's unlikely panel members and the public can wipe from their minds a year-and-a-half of submissions touting the financial benefits of the proposal.

This incident led to another lengthy delay in the review, with oral hearings now scheduled for January and February, and a Cabinet decision anticipated for the summer—all

though that could change under the new government's watch. Kinder Morgan, meanwhile, has stated that the delay will cause it financial losses, while the looming uncertainty of the process—coupled with fluctuating global oil prices—means that the project is increasingly risky for investors.



We, as a community, have played a vital role in the National Energy Board being unable to turn a blind eye to Mr. Stephen Kelly's past involvement with Kinder Morgan.

THREE BIG CAMPAIGN PROMISES, ONE NEW GOVERNMENT

Fast forward to fall, and the Kinder Morgan rollercoaster took another turn, with the election of a new federal government that will now decide the fate of the pipeline. During the election campaign, the Liberal Party said three important things that will almost certainly change the course of the process once again.

Three big promises, and one big job for GSA, you, and local communities to hold the new government to account.

1

The Liberal Party could not support the Kinder Morgan project in its current form because the process to date had failed to achieve community and stakeholder consent.

2

A Liberal government would immediately overhaul the environmental assessment process, including an analysis of upstream impacts and greenhouse gas emissions resulting from projects.

3

The current Kinder Morgan review needs to be redone.

Undoubtedly, there will be additional chapters in the winding tale of the Kinder Morgan rollercoaster—but if we stick together and [keep up the pressure](#), there might be a happy ending.

Read more about GSA's work for the 2015 election on page 11

WATER'S EDGE DAY

SEES 30% GROWTH



Celebrating the beautiful shore

It was a perfect autumn day: the sun was shining, the wind was blowing, and over 1200 people celebrated Vancouver's waterfront at the second annual [Water's Edge Day](#) (that's 30% more people this year!) There were paddles in First Nations canoes, learning about salmon in the city, electric boat cruises, and the popular children's entertainer Mr. Squiddy was also in attendance. Visitors who came to the Vancouver Maritime Museum learned, enjoyed and re-connected with the shoreline, which is such an integral part of the city and an important part of GSA's [Waterfront Initiative](#).



Thanks to everyone who made this day possible, in particular:

- » **Sponsors:** Vancity (4th Avenue Branch) and Feathercraft
- » **Activity partners:** Vancouver Maritime Museum, Takaya Tours, Ecomarine, Birds Studies Canada, Vancouver Aquarium, Stewardship Centre for BC, Stanley Park Ecology Society, Tolley Craft, Stream of Dreams, Semperviva Yoga, Port Metro Vancouver, Vancouver Park Board, Mixed Media Events, GUE-The Baseline Project, and Tacofino
- » **In-kind supporters:** Ethical Bean, Tavola Restaurant, Helijet, Feathercraft, Float House, Science World, Museum of Anthropology, LUSH Cosmetics, Patagonia, White Spot Kerrisdale, Choices Kitsilano and Uprising Breads

photos: Deborah Jones & Vancouver Maritime Museum



STRONG, SUSTAINABLE SHORELINES

The current state of Vancouver's waterfront

Since the launch of the [Waterfront Initiative](#) in 2013, stakeholders representing many levels of government, private sector, First Nations, and civil society have participated in a handful of Waterfront Forums. These have provided an opportunity for early conversations around creating a common agenda that will pave the way to build a prosperous and resilient Vancouver waterfront.

While forums and discussions will continue in the months ahead, GSA is focusing its attention on gaining a better understanding of the current state of our waterfront by pulling together all known data in key areas related to the shoreline. This data will establish a baseline of what we know and do not know, which is essential for creating the measurable objectives and actionable steps that will get us closer to a healthy and prosperous shoreline that considers all parts of the city—from the ocean to the Fraser River. GSA looks forward to sharing the *State of the Waterfront* report with you later in 2016.

In June, GSA presented the draft report *A Comprehensive Assessment of Available Data Reflecting the Status of Vancouver's Waterfront* to stakeholders. [During this](#)

[forum](#), the formation and roles of Working Groups—the engines of the Waterfront Initiative that align to the five priority themes—were discussed, and GSA anticipates to officially launch some of these in the coming months. These Working Groups will collaborate on long term goals as identified in a Waterfront Initiative Action Plan, scheduled for release in 2017 following the *State of the Waterfront* report.

In July, GSA drafted an interim working document that identifies existing datasets and ongoing monitoring programs that reliably reflect the current state of the Vancouver waterfront. A total of 33 potential indicators, and their supporting data sources, were identified as they relate to the five priority themes. Data gaps were then identified, which include transportation on the Fraser River, ferry ridership within False Creek, shoreline treatments, ocean sector activities, housing information specific to the waterfront, and biophysical data for various shoreline ecosystems.

The preparation of this list of data sources and potential indicators is a significant step in the Waterfront Initiative—and it

Five priority themes of the Waterfront Initiative:

- Flourishing Ecosystems
- Living on the Waterfront
- Working on the Waterfront
- Transportation
- Access to Nature

was achievable because of your support. GSA is now in the process of analyzing proposed data sources that have not yet been retrieved and incorporating feedback from stakeholders that may identify any overlooked data sets. GSA is interested in your thoughts as the organization turns its attention to evaluating the proposed indicators for use in a *State of the Waterfront* report that will be delivered to you next year.

With a strong network and a deep understanding of the current state of the waterfront, you and GSA can develop a vision to restore, protect, and revitalize the Vancouver shoreline through the Waterfront Initiative.

Your input matters. Have a voice. Join the conversation.

What does the Vancouver waterfront mean to you? Be a part of the Waterfront Initiative Network.

To learn more contact Dan Straker, Waterfront Initiative Lead: dan@georgiastrait.org

...A WIN FOR COASTAL COMMUNITIES *continued from pg. 1*

Join the campaign's second phase: accountability, involvement and voices

Bringing you and your local representatives squarely into the oil spill preparedness and response process is a powerful way to make sure that the tough questions get asked, the flaws are pointed out, and the systems are improved to help safeguard those with the most to lose: your coastal communities in BC, and the environment.

In addition to [publishing research](#) and briefing decision-makers about local government preparedness, GSA has held

Let's raise our collective voices as communities to hold government and industry accountable for the oil spill preparedness and response framework used in Canada.

public meetings in Vancouver and Victoria with oil spill expert Dr. Riki Ott to discuss lessons learned by communities following major US oil spills so that you and other coastal residents can draw on that information to improve preparedness here in BC.

With a new federal government in place that is committed to reversing cuts to

marine safety, a plan to overhaul the provincial spill response system in early 2016, and the UBCM resolution making its way through official channels, there is a fantastic opportunity to see some of the policies that GSA been championing on your behalf for many years turned into reality. Thank you and we hope that you continue to take action so we can achieve our common goals!

Visit the website regularly for opportunities to take action
[www.georgiastrait.org/
BetterSpillResponse](http://www.georgiastrait.org/BetterSpillResponse)

HAPPY 25TH BIRTHDAY

GEORGIA STRAIT ALLIANCE!

A huge THANK YOU for being a GSA supporter, and a special acknowledgement to those of you who held gatherings to celebrate 25 years of protecting the Strait.

Together, we have raised nearly \$25,000 through birthday parties hosted by supporters like you!

Interested in joining the celebration?

- » Dedicate this year's holiday party to GSA!
- » Skip the coffee mugs, socks, and ugly sweaters. Challenge your office mates, friends and family to donate to save the Strait.
- » Consider a Gift Membership for that person on your list who seems to have everything. Visit www.georgiastrait.org/donate or call Cathy at 250-753-3459 for more information.

Birthday party hosts

Kathy Fletcher, Ladysmith Maritime Society Marina, Brenda Gaertner, Kate Storey, Deborah Simpson, Suzanne Siemens, 1% for the Planet & Lesli Boldt

Sponsors or in-kind donors

Craft Beer Market
Lighthouse Brewery
SeaStar Vineyards and Winery
Vancouver Farmer's Market

Auction item donors from Gabriola birthday event:

Wendy Simmonds
Clay Works
Avadon Studio
Long Table Distillery
Victoria Spirits
New Society Publishers
Salt Spring Baskets
Brenda Purcell
Christy Wilson
Tim Leadem

photos: Hilary Mandel, Brent Granby, Michelle Young, Lesli Boldt, Ken Weiner, Cathy Booler



Suzanne Siemens and Lesli Boldt celebrated their birthdays with GSA



Guests mingled at parties hosted by Brenda Gaertner on Gabriola Island, and by 1% for the Planet in Vancouver



The Vancouver Festival of Ocean Films was the venue for the Annual General Meeting and the official birthday celebration in September



HAVE YOU MET THE NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS?

At GSA's Annual General Meeting, held in Vancouver this past September, the following people were elected or re-elected to the Board of Directors. Meet your Board! (Pictures left to right as listed)

RACHEL S. FORBES (President) holds a law degree and is the principal of Sharp Six Services, an agency providing capacity building and meeting coordination services to community-based businesses and not-for-profits. She is a member of the Planning Institute of British Columbia and a director of the Whistler Centre for Sustainability.

JENNIFER FARR (Treasurer) is a Chartered Professional Accountant at the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC) where she provides analysis and oversight of costs to identify trends and information for immediate and long-term strategic planning. Jennifer currently resides in Vancouver, and has a fondness for the waters, shores and communities touched by the Strait.

KATHY FLETCHER (Secretary) founded and for 20 years was the executive director of People For Puget Sound, a citizens' organization formed to protect and restore the southern portion of our Salish Sea – a role that saw her working closely with GSA over many years.

LESLI BOLDT is President of Boldt Communications Inc., a Vancouver-based marketing communications firm. She has nearly 20 years of experience in the industry and a decade of experience in

consulting with clients in the public, private and not-for-profit sectors.

KEN COACH is President of the communications firm Media Coach Inc., which provides presentation and media training to corporate and academic leaders, politicians, celebrities and not-for-profit organizations. Previously, he spent 20 years working in news and current affairs in print and broadcast journalism.

KAREN COOLING recently retired from the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada after more than 30 years of labour and community activism. She has continued to represent labour in a number of forums, including Vancouver's Greenest City Action Team and the Climate Justice Project of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

MARISA CRUICKSHANK is an Associate at Lidstone & Company, a law firm in Vancouver that primarily acts for municipalities and regional districts around the province. She has particular expertise advising clients in relation to freedom of information, labour, employment and human rights, land use and environmental law matters. Marisa completed her law degree at the University of Victoria.

LESLIE HOFFMAN is Program Director at Hollyhock, Canada's lifelong learning centre. Leslie comes to British Columbia by way of California, and has a varied professional work history focused primarily in the areas of content development, production, project management and marketing. Leslie is committed to public

education that ensures protection of the Strait.

JACQUELINE MCGUIRE (on leave) is a Chartered Professional Accountant who provides assurance and accounting services to private companies and not-for-profit organizations. She also has a degree in Animal Biology. Jacqueline grew up in the Okanagan Valley and now lives in Vancouver.

SUSAN MILLER is a Chartered Professional Accountant and Manager, Finance and Administration at the University of Victoria. Susan has more than 20 years of experience in corporate and public sector accounting including strategic planning, financial analysis, accounting and audit. She is an avid sailor, spending as much time as possible on or near the water, and she's passionate about preserving the beauty of our shorelines for generations to come.

MELINDA SKEELS is an Associate with Ratcliff & Co LLP, a North Shore law firm. She represents First Nations governments and tribal councils, focusing on litigation, governance and environmental law. She's also an Associate with the University of Victoria's Environmental Law Centre.

KATE STOREY works at Renewal Funds, a Vancouver-based social venture capital fund focused on young companies in the organic and natural food, green products, and environmental innovation sectors. She holds an MBA in Finance and B.Sc in Biology.



DOWN AT THE DOCK

BACK FROM THE BRINK by Michelle Young



If you're in Ladysmith, you might spot Purple Martin swallows

Through the Clean Marine BC program, GSA partners with marinas and boat-yards to protect the waters that we love by aiding them in implementing environmental best practices that reduce contaminants from entering these waters. And every now and then GSA can tell you about some incredible—and tangible—spinoffs, like the return of the

Conservation works! The nearly extinct Purple Martin swallow population is flourishing at the Ladysmith Maritime Society

almost-extinct Purple Martin swallows to the Ladysmith area.

The BC Purple Martin Stewardship & Recovery Program cooperates with the recently eco-certified Ladysmith Maritime Society Marina where nest boxes are attached to dock pilings and watched for the spring arrival of Purple Martins. The adult birds are counted and the nestlings are banded.

This year has been a record year for the Recovery Program, with 1,100 pairs successfully raising 4,000 young at 90 colony sites—an incredible achievement compared to the mere five breeding pairs in 1985. Witnessing the birds flying about and feeding their young in the nest boxes at the marina is truly a warming and hopeful experience—and knowing that a Clean Marine BC marina had a hand in conserving this large North American swallow makes it even sweeter.

The Ladysmith Maritime Society Marina began flying its Clean Marine BC flag in June, while marina eco-certifications are taking place across the province, and perhaps at a [marina near you](#). Already this year, an additional five have gained certification: Cedar Grove Marina, Quayside Marina, Vancouver Marina, West Vancouver Yacht Club's Fisherman's Cove facility, and Okeover Harbour Authority which operates four government wharves.

In other marina-related news, GSA is attending a multi-jurisdictional Clean Marine program meeting in November to mark the 20th anniversary of the Clean Marine program in Canada. Michelle Young, GSA's Clean Marine BC Program Coordinator, will be meeting with program counterparts from



photo:
Laurie MacBride,
EyeOnEnvironment.com

Clean Marine BC certified marinas grew by 67% in 2015.

Ontario and Quebec for a collaboration session before holding an open house for any marinas that may be interested in the program.

As this is being held in Ontario as part of the Boating Ontario Conference, GSA is using the donated—and greatly appreciated—Aeroplan Miles to attend this can't-be-missed industry milestone. And, there's one more nugget to share with you: a BC marina will be presented with the 20th anniversary Clean Marine award, but we can't tell you which one . . . yet. Stay tuned for more, Down at the Dock.

GSA thanks you for supporting this valuable program, and also for the Aeroplan Miles that will get Michelle to Ontario!



photo: Michelle Young



THOUSANDS OF LITRES OF OILS, SOLVENTS AND PAINT ON BOARD

Story and photos by Michelle Young

Derelict vessels are harmful to your safety and environment

All along BC's coast, derelict vessels pose a hazard to your safety and the province's marine environment. Many communities are fed up that the federal and provincial governments do little more than talk of solutions, while these boats continue to leak contaminants into our oceans and freshwater bodies.

"...the hull is very close to being penetrated by corrosion. In fact, the hull may be penetrated below the waterline but covered with scale and marine growth..."

Ladysmith is no exception. When you visit Ladysmith Harbour, you'll see a place of great beauty and activity—but you will also find a number of problem boats in various stages of decline. In one short stretch of beach, you will encounter four derelict vessels grounded and decaying,

plus several more floating that are at risk of becoming derelict.

A marine survey of the abandoned Viki Lyne II in Ladysmith Harbour (photo below), conducted for the Coast Guard, discovered more than 30,000 litres of oils, solvents and paint on board. Last fall, 20,000 litres had been pumped off the vessel, leaving 13,000 litres of toxins on board the ship that is in imminent risk of sinking.

GSA spoke out for action on the Viki Lyne II and derelict vessels at [Ladysmith's Concern for our Harbour Day rally and flotilla](#). On your behalf, GSA continues to advocate for a solution to deal with this unnecessary and contaminating threat to our coast. GSA, along with partners in the region, will be engaging the new federal government on this issue and will be counting on your continued support to make that happen.



"Disassembly and scrapping of the vessel is the only certain way of removing her current threat to the environment."



In other [Clean Marine BC news...](#)

It was a very proud day as Executive Director Christianne Wilhelmson accepted the President's Award from the Environmental Managers Association of BC honouring GSA's CMBC program. Presented by President Carlos Daponte.

COMINGS & GOINGS

Over the last few months, some very talented people have joined GSA

Allison Murray started as Communications Associate in August. She supports GSA through strategic communications that support the organization's regional initiatives and profile, while also sharing developments and successes with you, the media and the general public. Allison lives in Vancouver with her husband, young son and the family dog.



In September, **Ben Leslie** hit the ground running, leading another successful Water's Edge Day (see page 4). As Events Coordinator based in Vancouver, Ben will assist with upcoming events around the region, including the Vancouver International Boat Show in January, so you can connect with GSA in your community soon.



In October, **Anita Noon** joined the Nanaimo office where she works two half-days every week. In addition to being on the other end of the telephone for you, other GSA members and potential members, she'll be ensuring the office runs smoothly. Anita has a background in customer service and finance. She lives in Ladysmith with her husband and three daughters.



Lifelong Vancouverite **Dan Straker** began leading the Waterfront Initiative program in October, and he's excited to be building a shared vision for Vancouver's waterfront with you. Previously, Dan spent four years with the Stanley Park Ecology Society where he worked as Urban Wildlife Programs Coordinator, educating people about coyotes and other urban wildlife species, and participating as an adviser to various municipal and regional initiatives.



At the September AGM, **Marisa Cruickshank** was elected to the Board of Directors. Marisa had already spent a year as an invaluable ex-officio member of the Personnel Committee, which she now Chairs. (See page 7 to learn more about Marisa).

And there are a few good-byes . . .

At the last AGM, Directors **Virginia (Ginnie) Mathers** and **Dave MacDonald** completed their terms. Both played important roles on the Personnel Committee, helping to strengthen policy development and provide ongoing support to staff. All of Ginnie and Dave's hard work is much appreciated, and they leave GSA as a stronger and more effective organization - and both will be missed.

Finally, GSA thanks **Madelaine Hatch** for her incredible work over the past year-and-a-half as a Communications contractor. Madelaine's generosity, skills and support were key to integrating effective communication strategies into program planning and deliverables. GSA wishes Madelaine all the best in her 'semi-retirement' and hopes she and her husband enjoy life in their new home of Penticton.

A VOICE FOR THE ORCA

Reducing pollutants and assessing Terminal 2 at Robert's Bank

While we retain hope that a change in government will finally mean the release of the long promised action plan that lays out the measures that federal agencies will implement to keep orcas in our waters from extinction, GSA has not been content to wait, and it has been working with partners to see change happen today.

GSA partners with scientists, NGOs, managers, industry experts, and lawyers to bring your concerns to the forefront during the review of projects, which may impact our at-risk marine mammals.

In May, GSA partnered with the Ocean Pollution Research Program of the Vancouver Aquarium to bring together over 50 scientists, managers and NGOs to identify solutions that address the contamination of our waters, particularly stopping pollutants that are harmful to at risk marine mammals. The result was a shortlist of projects that attendees are committed to make happen and an ongoing commitment to gather in 2016 to assess the progress made.

GSA seeks solutions that are based on science and collaboration.

GSA is also deeply concerned about growing shipping traffic in the Salish Sea, which is why the organization is participating in the environmental assessment of the Terminal 2 project at Robert's Bank. Working with lawyers at Ecojustice, partners at David Suzuki Foundation, Raincoast Conservation Foundation and Wilderness Committee, along with scientists who are experts in the area of pollution, disturbance and prey availability as it relates to orcas, GSA will be ensuring that your concerns about the impacts of the shipping industry on the endangered resident orcas are front-and-centre as the future of this project is reviewed.



A VOTE FOR THE COAST

In the weeks leading up to the federal election, GSA endeavoured to get you the information needed to exercise your vote, including nonpartisan tools that put the coast top of mind within the crowded federal election landscape.

GSA accomplished this by sending a survey to all the major party candidates in 20 south coast ridings to ask their position on the Kinder Morgan pipeline expansion, oil spill response, climate change and more. A total of 35 Liberal, NDP and Green Party candidates replied, with thoughtful and considered [statements on their views](#). Among these replies, there are 12 from candidates who are now sitting MPs, providing GSA with a strong basis for engagement going forward.

As an organization, working on your behalf, GSA will hold government MPs to the commitments they made to you. These include:

- » overhauling the broken National Energy Board process, and restarting the Kinder Morgan review;



- » restoring cuts to marine safety and increasing investment in spill response on the West Coast;
- » ensuring that local communities are involved in oil spill planning and have the resources they need to respond effectively; and
- » conducting a cumulative effects assessment for all proposed oil, coal and LNG projects that would impact the Strait of Georgia.

In addition to the candidate survey, GSA put together a resource guide and other tools designed to inform environmentally-minded voters like you, while also providing practical information to

ensure that the changes to the Elections Act didn't stop supporters from having their say at the ballot box. And, in the final stretch before the October 19 election, GSA did its part to get out the vote as a number of messages were shared with you.

Thank you for the ongoing support. GSA looks forward to working with you and the new federal government to bring about change on issues that are near and dear to all of our hearts.

THANKS TO SOME OF OUR RECENT FUNDERS AND PARTNERS...



We acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia and would also like to thank - Boldt Communications Inc., Canada Metal Pacific Ltd., Denman Island Chocolate Ltd., Dolphin Insurance Services Inc., Feathercraft Products Ltd., Mountain Equipment Co-op, Renewal Partners, West Coast Expeditions, and West Vancouver Yacht Club.

THANK YOU! None of the actions and accomplishments shared with you in these pages would have been possible without your support. GSA is so grateful for the support of all its members and donors, including special people like wildlife artist Robert Bateman and his wife Birgit Freybe Bateman, who have been donors since GSA's very early days.

"We are so lucky, those of us who live on or near the Georgia Strait. As an artist and naturalist I relish the feast for the eye created by the biodiversity. The shores of the Strait are rich, varied and complex, and under the water live creatures we all love like the Killer Whale. But though often unintentional, negative consequences of our human actions threaten the Strait's health. Pollution, increased tanker traffic and the threat of oil spills stress our whale populations, leaving them in deep trouble. Georgia Strait Alliance works with scientists and communities to help to fill the information gap, educating individuals about the consequences of their actions and urging decision-makers to better manage and regulate the impacts on our waters.

We can have a wonderful future for our little piece of paradise but only if we pay attention. This is why our support of the Georgia Strait Alliance is so important."

- Robert Bateman



To read Robert Bateman's full testimonial, visit www.georgiastrait.org/testimonials.

To order your copy of the special commemorative poster featuring Mr. Bateman's Ocean Rhapsody painting, visit www.georgiastrait.org/25thbirthday-commemorativeposter. Available for a limited time.

BECOME A CHANGE MAKER...

Your tax deductible donation to Georgia Strait Alliance is an investment in our shared vision for our local waters, for today and future generations. Become a **Change Maker** and we can achieve real protection for all who call our waters home.

TO DONATE TODAY, call 250-753-3459 or email gsa@GeorgiaStrait.org or donate through the secure online form at www.GeorgiaStrait.org/donate