

March 3, 2006.

Honourable Gary Lunn MP  
Minister of Natural Resources  
Constituency Office  
# 1 - 9843 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave  
Sidney, BC  
V8L 3C7

Dear Sir:

I am writing this letter in support of the numerous community and political jurisdictions requesting a stop, cancellation or deferral of the RFP procedure involving Work Point Barracks building 1027, the Officers Mess and Quarters in Esquimalt. The tender due in date was March 2, 2006. You are aware of Work Point Barracks, this FHBRO Recognized building, and of course the coastal defence / garrison history and contributions locally, to western Canada, and to our country for more than a century.

At issue here is that the previous MND and his administration have gone to great efforts to abandon, condone neglect / demolish, or transfer the historic Work Point Canadian Army buildings without reasonable concern for actual consultation, heritage values and reuse potential. This activity is relative to the current Venture Naval Officers Training Centre now occupying a portion of the site. The land is not surplus and possibly not to be divested for up to fifty years. This important national (albeit western locale) strategic site and buildings was recently denied Historic Site status, its reference being deferred to local military museums and Fort Rodd Hill, all which can hardly hold their own specific involvements. Meanwhile, Historic Site District status was awarded to the Dockyard, Naden "Museum Square", Veteran's cemetery and Cole Island, all of Royal Naval and Royal Canadian Naval identity.

I urge you to engage in the reconnection of the Canadian military with the community as expressed lacking by General Hillier, results of the past decade of indifference by the previous government. Although security issues are highlighted by DND bureaucracy, establishing a stronger presence within the community will enhance this relationship and help to provide for the post 9-11 era domestic and operational requirements.

I believe that a group such as the Work Point Arts Project Society, with its business case and expressed support of the community and region, is capable of initiating an enterprise to help bridge the gap referred to by General Hillier. It is a matter of DND will to engage in such a vision and show a dedication required in our country.

On October 12, 2005 I submitted a “counter intervention” application to the FHBRO regarding procedures used in gaining approval for the demolition of WP 1027. It was referred to a Mr. S Deschenes at DND (Realty Dept) in Ottawa, with no response to date.

Yours truly

Jack Bates  
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