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District of Highlands
Mayor and Council
1980 Millstream Road
Victoria, BC V9B 6H1

January 17, 2020

Mayor and Council

RE: CITY OF VICTORIA MOTION FOR CRD TO EXPLORE CRUISE WASTE TIPPING FEES

City of Victoria Mayor & Council passed an advocacy motion at their Jan. 16, 2020 Committee of the Whole for: the CRD to amend the Hartland Landfill Tipping Fee and Regulation Bylaw; for their staff to engage with CRD on the potential amendment; and for Mayor Helps to write to the CRD Board and Mayors & Councils of municipalities in the region, requesting favourable consideration of this request.

As the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority maintains responsibility for cruise operations for Greater Victoria, we would welcome the opportunity to provide you with a thorough, factual, and detailed update on the status of waste management through the Victoria Cruise Terminal as you consider this request. We would also welcome any requests for Mayor & Council to tour the facilities at The Breakwater District at Ogden Point.

Cruise lines work with contracted companies to manage their waste and seek to find jurisdictions, such as British Columbia, where waste management regulations are as strict and diligent as their operations on board. Each cruise line calling to the Victoria Cruise Terminal is diverting more than 90% of their onboard waste away from landfills and toward recycling and reuse.

Each year, close to 1,000 tonnes of controlled waste from cruise ships – for which there is already a differential tipping fee – ends up in our regional landfill. This is less than 1% of the annual waste created by Greater Victoria.

Victorians and all CRD residents should begin to reduce our waste in the same way that cruise lines approach the issue – reduce waste in the supply chain at the point of procurement, focus on education (for crew and passengers), pursue diversion actions, and then dispose of what cannot be diverted.

I believe there is much that may be learned from our cruise partners as we discuss improving waste management.

Sincerely

Ian Robertson, CEO
Greater Victoria Harbour Authority