

Dear Prime Minister Stephen Harper:

I am writing to object to your government's decision to close the Kitsilano Coast Guard Station in Vancouver for the following reasons:

- Preserving Canadian lives is worth more than your government's stated savings. There are 20 million human transits annually within a 10 minute response radius of the Kitsilano Coast Guard Station in Canada's busiest port: claimed savings of less than \$700K is pennies a person.
- All members of Vancouver's longstanding Marine Safety Network, outside of federally funded partners, agree that closing the Kitsilano Coast Guard station will result in the loss of lives.
- Maritime Coordinators of the Victoria Joint Rescue Coordination Centre; Retired Canadian Coast Guard Search and Rescue Personnel; the local Coast Guard Advisory Committee; Vancouver City marine police and fire all agree that closing the Kitsilano Coast Guard Station will result in the loss of lives.
- The maritime portion of the Trans Canada Highway (10 million + annual passengers); Seabus route (5 million); Harbour Air seaplane base (.5 million); and the Canada Place cruise ship terminal (1 million) are all within the 10 minute response radius of the Kitsilano Coast Guard Station. It could take the closest Coast Guard Auxiliary as much as 30 minutes just to muster crew at their boat on the dock. When winds exceed 40 knots the hovercraft based on Richmond's Sea Island cannot effectively reach this area.
- The First Narrows, Canada's most economically important stretch of navigable water is 6 minutes away from the centrally located Kitsilano Coast Guard Station.
- In its 50 year history, the majority of serious marine rescues (imminent danger) performed by the Kitsilano Coast Guard Station have occurred outside of the proposed summertime seasonal student crewed station at Deadman Island.
- An extra 30 plus minutes for the Richmond-based Coast Guard hovercraft to conduct rescues in Vancouver's year round use waters increases the high probability of loss of life.

Additional Comments: _____

While local Conservative MP's have abandoned ship on representing their constituents; Vancouver's marine transportation, industrial and recreational communities, along with all of our other elected officials, will remain strongly united in opposing this dangerous decision.

I will not vote for a party that closes the Kitsilano Coast Guard Station.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

DATE: _____

Right Honourable Stephen Harper

House of Commons
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No
Stamp
Required