



Mr. Robin Silvester, President and CEO  
Penny Priddy, Stakeholder Relations Committee Chair  
Port of Vancouver  
100 The Pointe, 999 Canada Place  
Vancouver, BC  
V6C 3T4

July 4, 2019

Dear Mr. Silvester and Ms. Priddy,

Rowing BC is the provincial governing body for the sport of rowing in British Columbia. As such, Rowing BC is expected to contribute to the sustainability of the sport through the delivery and oversight of important initiatives related to athlete, coach, official and club development. In this capacity Rowing BC wishes to contribute information for consideration to you and the Port of Vancouver concerning impacts the proposed expansion of the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club (RVYC) in Coal Harbour will have on the Vancouver Rowing Club (VRC).

Having reviewed the project proposal and witnessed first-hand the potential impacts due to the proposed reduction of usable waterway, Rowing BC can validate the accuracy of the letter VRC sent to the Port of Vancouver on May 22, 2019.

Rowing BC would like to point out the misused application of 13.5 metre-wide lanes in the project proposal. Lanes of this size are commonly used during sanctioned rowing regattas. The conditions required by a sanctioned regatta include the exclusive use of a waterway and controlled flow patterns managing differing directional uses and speeds of rowing shells. These conditions were not met in False Creek in the build-up to the 2016 American Masters Games, forcing rowing to be withdrawn from the games. This expansion proposal must provide safety considerations for how Coal Harbour is actually used by rowers, and all other waterway users.

Rowing BC has a unique knowledge that would, if asked, support the healthy development of a proposed expansion project on a shared waterway where rowing activities take place. At no point in the development of the project proposal has Rowing BC been engaged by the proponent. Having since communicated with Rowing Canada Aviron on this matter, I can confirm that there has been no effort by the proponent to engage with the national governing body either.

The Vancouver Rowing Club has been a part of Coal Harbour for 133 years. The Royal Vancouver Yacht Club's proposed expansion project will make it impossible for rowing to continue to happen on Coal Harbour. The Vancouver Rowing Club is not trying to prevent responsible expansion, they are simply trying to ensure that their ability to remain viable on Coal Harbour is protected. Rowing BC echoes that call and is prepared to engage with project proponents to ensure that any development that does move forward is appropriate.

Thank you,

David Calder  
Executive Director  
Rowing BC



CC

Joyce Murray	Member of Parliament for Vancouver Quadra
Hedy Fry	Member of Parliament for Vancouver Center
Lisa Beare	Member of the Legislative Assembly for Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows
Spencer Chandra Herbert	Member of the Legislative Assembly for Vancouver-West End
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Christine Boyle	Councillor, City of Vancouver
Adriane Carr	Councillor, City of Vancouver
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Collen Hardwick	Councillor, City of Vancouver
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Stacy Mitchell	President, Rowing BC
Matthias Uhlenbruck	Rowing Captain, Vancouver Rowing Club