



MEDIA AND PUBLIC INFORMATION RELEASE

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Regional District Kitimat-Stikine, Haisla Nation Conclude Sale Agreement for MK Bay Marina

KITIMAT – Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine Chair Bruce Bidgood and Haisla Nation Chief Councillor Ellis Ross yesterday signed a purchase agreement for the sale of MK Bay Marina to the Haisla Trust Society. Closing date of the sale is set for December 4, 2014 and the parties have begun the transfer of ownership. “We expect a smooth transition,” said Chair Bidgood. “After reviewing all available options to the Regional District; the Board is pleased to announce it has decided to move forward with the sale of the MK Bay Marina to the Haisla.”

Chair Bidgood reported, “The use of adjacent Haisla and Rio Tinto Alcan owned lands have been required to operate the Marina since redevelopment in 1989 and the Regional District had agreed back in 2001 that a mutually negotiated arrangement between the Regional District, Haisla First Nation and Rio Tinto Alcan was the preferred solution to resolve certain outstanding land issues. The Regional Board is pleased to announce after years of discussions and exploration of different partnership arrangements with the Haisla First Nation a negotiated agreement has been achieved.”

The interests of all three parties have been satisfied. Public interest concerns of the Regional District have also been addressed and certain operational standards will be met through a land use covenant under section 219 of the Land Title Act and registered in favour of the Regional District. The marina will remain: fee simple taxable land, open to the recreational boater with plans to grandfather moorage for existing users and operated by the private market according to marina industry standards.

“I see it is a win-win-win situation,” declared Chair Bidgood. First, the Haisla First Nation will repatriate an important piece of their traditional territory. Second, this is good news for boaters who will be provided guaranteed access for recreational use along with an expanded and improved facility. The Haisla and their business partner will upgrade the existing marina including plans to expand operations on adjacent lands. Finally, plans are underway to develop a commercial operations capacity which will facilitate the development of industry along the Douglas Channel. Chair Bidgood concluded, “The Regional District Board looks forward to turning MK Bay Marina over to the Haisla Trust Society and set the stage for expansion of this important regional facility to its full potential and a gem for all to enjoy.”

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