



February 7, 2019

Boating BC Sets Sail with Abandoned Boat Education and Awareness Program

Vancouver BC – Boating BC has officially launched an *Abandoned Boats Education and Awareness Campaign* to make boaters aware of their responsibility to manage each vessel through the end of its life – and provide information on boat disposal options.

Boating BC received a grant under Transport Canada's Abandoned Boats Program which supports the assessment, removal and disposal of abandoned boats in Canadian waters. Aspects of the three-year campaign will include radio, print, web-based and social media content. The campaign will also be leveraged through municipal and industry gatherings and promoted by Association members throughout the province. Another important aspect of the campaign is the creation of a data base that includes boat disposal options.

"Boating BC believes this is an opportunity to educate recreational boaters and the recreational boating industry and increase awareness of the responsibility to manage their vessel through to the end of its life," says Association President Don Prittie. "We know the vast majority of boaters are responsible, but not all – and we need to ensure this issue is not a recurring one. Step-one is educating and holding boat owners accountable for their vessels and ensuring they know how and where they can dispose of them."

Derelict and abandoned vessels are an eyesore - but more significantly, they pose navigational, environmental and safety risks. Abandoned or derelict boats may wash ashore or sink, releasing fuel or toxins which put marine life and habitat at risk. These vessels also pose a danger to the boating public and beachgoers and are a hindrance to waterfront businesses and local economies.

Editors - please note: Don Prittie, Boating BC Association President will be available for comment throughout the day at the Vancouver International Boat Show, BC Place location. To arrange an interview, please contact Kelly Gleeson at 604-240-6231

The Abandoned Boats Education and Awareness Campaign images are available at:
<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/wsn2k0xf6jt91b8/AADVn0KvU0YxSD6xA-Ng50qaa?dl=0>

Detailed information on boat disposal options is available at: www.boatingbc.ca/boatdisposal

Boating BC Association represents the recreational boating industry across British Columbia and is comprised of more than 300-member businesses. The Association offers counsel on business and governance issues, as well as representing and advocating on behalf of the boating industry to all levels of government.

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For more information, please contact:
Kelly Gleeson – LBMG
604-240-6231

Because BC is better on a boat!™