



Patrick Johnstone
Mayor

June 14, 2023

Quayside Community Board
Box 453 104 – 1015 Columbia Street
New Westminster, BC V3M 6V3

via email: info@quaysideboard.com

Dear Ms. Tomkins,

Thank you for your letter dated May 12, 2023 RE: community visioning and consultation for Poplar Landing / Muni Evers Park.

As you know, the Poplar Landing site is jointly owned by the City and Metro Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District, and a portion of the property hosts a combined sewer overflow storage facility that reduces combined sewer overflows into the Fraser River. Though there have been a few feasibility studies over the years, there has not been a concerted effort to move forward on the re-imagining of the space in several years.

Most recently, the City of New Westminster did some preliminary design and public engagement work in 2018 to identify opportunities for the space, envisioning different mixes of park use, affordable and market housing. However, as other projects and affordable housing opportunities were found in other parts of the City, the challenges presented by this site (poor soil conditions, flood resiliency and servicing costs) caused it to be de-prioritized.

I am not able to tell you right now when the visioning process for this site will be re-launched, but it does remain on both the City and Metro Vancouver's radar as a potential location for a partnership, with the provision of affordable housing an identified common interest. I can assure you that the Quayside Community Board will be identified as a key stakeholder in further consultation on the site once the site again rises higher on the priority list for the City and Metro Vancouver.

Thank you for writing, and reminding us that the neighbourhood still sees this site as a priority.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Johnstone', written in a cursive style.

Patrick Johnstone
MAYOR