



**BC Nautical Residents Association**

309 - 1521 Church Street

Victoria, BC V8P 5T7

[www.bcnr.org](http://www.bcnr.org)

October 29, 2012

Mayor Bev Parnham and Council  
District of Port Hardy  
7360 Columbia Street, Box 68  
Port Hardy, BC V0N 2P0

Dear Mayor Parnham and Council:

I am a Director with the BC Nautical Residents Association (BCNR). The BCNR was founded in 2010 by a group of liveaboard boaters to encourage living aboard responsibly and to find solutions to issues faced by people who live on the water. The BCNR's mission statement is to:

1. Preserve and support the tradition of living aboard one's vessel;
2. Promote environmental awareness among liveaboards;
3. Establish effective communications and resolve issues of concern to liveaboards;
4. Serve as a voice for liveaboards regarding activities that affect BC waterways.

Based on our research into the issue of evicting the liveaboard boaters from the Port Hardy Harbour Authority docks, the BCNR has determined that:

1. There are a couple of liveaboard boaters whose actions are unacceptable. In all rental situations, there is a complaints process with escalating consequences, the final step being eviction. In *no* rental situation are all the tenants evicted because of one or two problem tenants. Yet, in the issue involving the Harbour Authority's docks, this is precisely the case.
2. Living aboard is a viable and legal form of affordable accommodation. If the District of Port Hardy proceeds with the plan to remove all liveaboard vessels from its docks, this action may result in some or all of these people becoming homeless. Will the District of Port Hardy ensure that alternative, affordable accommodation is found for the liveaboards?
3. The RCMP does not want to get involved with removing liveaboard vessels.
4. A safe harbour is guaranteed under Canada's maritime law. If liveaboard vessels are prohibited from moorage at the Harbour Authority's docks, where in the District of Port Hardy is there a safe anchorage with reasonable access to shore and facilities?
5. There is a possibility that some of the current liveaboards do not have a Pleasure Craft Operator Card, required by the federal government. If forced to leave the dock by the Harbour Authority, these boaters will involuntarily be in violation of this federal regulation.

The BC Nautical Residents Association believes that liveaboard boaters must be reasonable tenants. To that end, the BCNR would like to offer its services to the District of Port Hardy and its Harbour Authority staff to try and reach a solution to these issues that will work for all involved. BCNR directors are available to provide this assistance.

Please respond by emailing me at [bill\\_sassaman@bcnr.org](mailto:bill_sassaman@bcnr.org).

Yours truly,

Bill Sassaman  
Director  
BC Nautical Residents Association