

# Pender Harbour and Area Residents Association



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July 15, 2024

Lori Halls  
Deputy Minister,  
Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship  
Victoria, BC

**Via email to [lori.halls@gov.bc.ca](mailto:lori.halls@gov.bc.ca)**

Dear Ms. Halls

On July 8, 2024 we received an email from Payton Fraser of your Ministry, which stated as follows:

Hello,

You are receiving this update as an email subscriber to the shíshálh-BC Land Use Planning project website. The shíshálh-BC Land Use Planning Table would like to notify you that there has been an update to the project website, please see below.

The shíshálh-BC Land Use Planning Table is currently working to develop a variety of current condition and trend assessment materials that align with the major planning themes identified for the shíshálh-BC land use planning process: shíshálh culture, biodiversity, watershed integrity, sustainable economic development, climate change, and cumulative impacts. The release of these assessment materials will kick off our public engagement phase related to Current Condition Assessments; we are anticipating the release of these materials will commence in the winter of 2024/25. The upcoming phase of public engagement will span several months and provide a variety of opportunities for everyone to express their interests and concerns as it relates to the management of land and resources in the shíshálh swiya at a broad-scale. The planned engagement opportunities will include: an online publication of the current condition assessments with interactive web-maps; an online public questionnaire; an introductory public webinar; public open houses; themed focus-group workshops; and stakeholder meetings. Your valuable input will help to inform future phases of the land use planning process moving forward.

**Please DO NOT REPLY to this email address. This is a courtesy update to email subscribers of the [shíshálh-BC Land Use Planning project website](#). Please send all enquiries via the “Contact the Project Team” button at the bottom of the project website page.**

Thank you,

**Payton Fraser** ([She/Her/hers](#))

**Land & Resource Coordinator - Regional Initiatives**

Strategic Land use, Coast Area - South Region

Land Use Planning and Cumulative Effects Division

Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

778-572-4120 | [Payton.Fraser-Top@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Payton.Fraser-Top@gov.bc.ca)

*I am privileged to live and work on the unceded and occupied territories of the Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group and the Stó:lō, sə́lilwataʔ, šxʷməθkʷəy̓əmʔ, Skwxwú7mesh-ulh, and Stz'uminus Nations. I invite you to become familiar with the lands you occupy [here](#).*

*I recognize that settler colonialism has suppressed First Nations ability to access the land base that this ministry works to manage. I hold this understanding in my interactions and engagements with this land and its original caretakers, as part of my commitment to meaningful reconciliation.*

Can you please advise us whether the province anticipates the land use plan being contemplated by the process discussed above will be given legal effect in any way? I.e. will it be binding on statutory decision-makers under the *Land Act* or other legislation? We understand that normally land use plans would not be legally binding on statutory decision makers (though they may be considered) so we would like to confirm that is the case here.

Thank you.



Peter Robson,  
President  
PHARA