

# TOWN OF SHELBURNE

## Concept for Consideration



January 31, 2024

**Attention: Municipality of the District of Shelburne Warden & Council**

Dear Warden & Council,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Town of Shelburne to urgently address a matter of significant concern regarding the deteriorating condition of the wharves in our community. Specifically, the outer face of the eastern end of the wharf at 95 Water Street and the smaller wharf located at 14 Dock Street require immediate attention due to critical structural damage and subsequent threats to our economic vitality and maritime activities.

The Water Street wharf has sustained critical structural damage, with approximately 90 feet of the structure compromised due to the collapse of supporting steel, leaving it vulnerable to further deterioration, especially during adverse weather conditions. The protective shield previously provided by the Long Island vessel is no longer in place, further exacerbating the risk.

Repair estimates for this wharf exceed \$325,000, with potential escalations due to rising material costs. Similarly, the wharf on Dock Street has incurred substantial damage, with approximately 7 meters of the wharf's end requiring pile caps replacement due to vertical shifting, resulting in significant distortion to the deck. The repair costs for these damages range from \$392,000 to \$487,000, necessitating immediate attention to prevent further degradation.

The significance of these wharves cannot be overstated. They serve as vital hubs for our community as a whole, supporting local fishermen, aquaculture operations, commercial enterprises, and marine activities while also providing a haven for visiting super yachts where Customs come to clear them. Moreover, they play a vital role in accommodating visiting cruise ships, contributing to our local economy and tourism sector.

The wharf at 95 Water Street is instrumental in supporting traditional marine activities and aquaculture operations, providing employment opportunities for all of our residents. The potential loss of approximately 220 jobs, underscores the urgency of addressing these damages.



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Furthermore, the wharf at 14 Dock Street serves as a vital access point for visiting vessels, including sailboats and government agencies like the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture. Its deterioration threatens not only our economic prosperity but also our community's maritime heritage and future development prospects.

In light of these pressing concerns, the Town of Shelburne has allocated funds from the Port capital reserve, totaling \$100,000. However, additional support is needed to bridge the financial gap and expedite the restoration process. Our discussions with representatives from the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) have highlighted the importance of securing support from local municipalities to complement existing resources. Therefore, we respectfully request your assistance in providing funding to expedite the repair and restoration of the wharves.

The restoration of these wharves is not only a Town concern but also a municipal one, given the broader implications for economic development, tourism, and community well-being. We are hopeful that you are able and willing to financially contribute \$100,000 to this critical matter.

I am available to provide any additional information or clarification you may require regarding this request. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to your response and support in addressing this critical issue.

Sincerely,



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