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Canadian Environmental Assessment Review-[CEAA.EARReview-ExamenEE.ACEE@ceaa-acee.gc.ca](mailto:CEAA.EARReview-ExamenEE.ACEE@ceaa-acee.gc.ca)

Review of Environmental Assessment Processes- **Navigation Protection Act**

ADIMS and the Denman Island Marine Guardians (DIRA MG's) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the CEAA 2012 and are please that the Government of Canada has promised to review the changes to the Navigable Waters Protection Act, (NWPA) restore lost protections and incorporate modern safeguards. ADIMS and the DIRA MG's represent a gulf island whose local government, the Islands Trust has the unique mandate to "Preserve and Protect".

The NWPA, one of the country's oldest pieces of legislation, adopted in 1882, was amended and renamed the Navigation Protection Act in 2012. We believe the changes created significantly less protection of Canada's waterways with only three oceans, 97 lakes, and portions of 62 rivers now being protected.

By comparison, Canada is estimated to contain nearly 32,000 major lakes and more than 2.25 million rivers: The NPA excludes 99.7 per cent of Canada's lakes and more than 99.9 per cent of Canada's rivers from federal oversight. Notably absent from the schedule are significant rivers in British Columbia, such as the Kitimat and Upper Fraser Rivers, which lie along the path of the proposed Northern Gateway pipeline.

The changes leave thousands of Canada's waterways unprotected and further reduce environmental hurdles for projects like Enbridge's Northern Gateway pipeline, which would cross nearly 800 water crossings.

In essence, the federal government turned its back on regulating Canada's waterways. In doing so, it is shifting the burden of protecting this country's lakes, rivers and streams onto citizens, public interest groups and local businesses that, in many cases, do not have the resources to battle big corporations looking to install new bridges, pipelines or dams.

With the new federal government initiative, it is our hope that for the sake of environmental protection, the NPA will be restored to more resemble the original NWPA, giving Canadians a reason to be proud once again.

Respectfully, Barb Mills & Edina Johnston

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