

## **Response to Transport Canada's "Let's Talk: Long-term anchoring" October 2023**

Floating accommodations need to be reclassified consistently across the country to allow for them to be regulated according to municipal building codes and to provide proper safety for the people living in them and the surrounding environment. Float Homes are currently classified as vessels in Ontario by Transport Canada, while the same types of structures are classified as Float Homes in British Columbia, due to a 2001 policy from Transport Canada designating these objects as "float homes". This policy inequality makes no sense and is causing substantial environmental damage in Ontario.

Float Homes regulated as vessels means that the only "regulatory agency" permitted by law to manage float home activity in Ontario is Transport Canada.

Transport Canada is not chartered for or resourced to be in the residential float home management business.

The re-designation of float homes from vessels to float homes will allow Ontario municipalities and provincial ministries to manage building permits, building codes, environmental standards, mooring locations, and municipal taxation – just like Transport Canada has enabled British Columbia to do since 2001.

Float Homes regulated as Float Homes not vessels in Ontario will find their "home" in marinas built for the purpose of housing float homes. Similar float home marinas provide safe harbour for 600+ float homes in British Columbia, as well as 20+ float homes in Bluffers Park in Toronto under the control of the Toronto Harbour Control.

The long-term anchorage solutions for Ontario float homes make sense, but can only be applied when Transport Canada removes the vessel classification from float homes based in Ontario.