

Floating Homes not Vessels Coalition Update - 04/29/24

Over the past several months this group has been very busy. Our freedom of information request to Transport Canada resulted in over 720 pages of information, in summary:

- TC views their charter is to manage vessel safety and the definition of a vessel
- TC does not view their role to manage where vessels travel or where they moor
- TC repeatedly (within the 720 pages) referred to the MNRF 161/17 work as a good role model to follow for any other gov't jurisdictions wishing to get involved in building and enforcing a regulatory framework

As a result, the coalition had to pivot and we have created a tri-level working group consisting of Parks Canada, MNRF, Severn Township, Georgian Bay Township and Tay Township (township members include planning departments, bylaw enforcement and as time permits mayors). At the first meeting April 9th, all parties presented their concerns and current status with respect to floating accommodations. Once the group solidifies, more information on the group and its actions will be included in the reporting to this committee, we feel we need to ensure that there are concrete executed plans before moving it to the public domain.

We were quite happy with the open and honest communication among the group. Float Homes not Vessel Coalition is simply acting as facilitators to this group. The next meeting of the tri-level working group will be held on May 9th. We have invited the OPP (they have agreed to attend) and Transport Canada (no word yet on their attendance).

Although we were disappointed in TC's response, we feel this is the best course of action moving forward.