

June 15, 2007

NEWS RELEASE

Re: Environment Minister States Aquarium Expansion Subject to Federal Review

In response to Lifeforce's email, January 10/07, regarding the proposed \$80-100 million expansion of the Vancouver Aquarium, the Minister of the Environment, John Baird, has stated that "For developments such as the proposed aquarium expansion, when federal funds are contributed, the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* is triggered. The environmental assessment process would assess the likely impacts of the project on the natural and cultural resources of the park and any significant alteration of the landscape, including tree removal."

"The proposed major aquarium and zoo expansion will consume an additional 1.5 acres of precious parkland and destroy the park's serenity forever," stated Peter Hamilton, Lifeforce Founding Director. "The proposed multi-story building does not belong in a park. It's tantamount to a condo building and in this case the inhabitants are imprisoned wildlife. The tranquility of Stanley Park would be lost because the mega aquarium and zoo will create traffic congestion and headaches for all. The cultural enjoyment of a picnic in the park would become a picnic in a parking lot."

"Stanley Park has a diversity of fauna and flora that can be viewed freely. This wildlife experience must be protected and promoted. We must not imprison wildlife for pay-for-view entertainment," added Hamilton.

Lifeforce is a Vancouver-based ecology organization that has been instrumental in helping protect Stanley Park from zoo and aquarium development. In 1989 we succeeded in having Stanley Park designated as a National Historic Site. Our fight against the Stanley Park Zoo resulted in the public voting against a zoo in Stanley Park.

For further information:

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