**Green Shore Power Today.**

RE: Record-high cruise-ship visits scheduled for Victoria in 2022 after two-year absence – Darron Kloster

Let’s celebrate the return of tourism and cruise ships to Victoria! After two years with no ships, 2022 is set to be a record-high season, meaning we will welcome thousands of visitors in just a few months. While this is certainly something to be happy about, it comes with great challenges. Pollution has been an issue for the planet and James Bay residents for years. We may have missed the opportunity to take advantage of the “COVID downtime,” but it’s not too late to upgrade our cruise ship terminals to shore power in preparation for our busiest season to come.

Currently, cruise ships dock at Ogden Point, the busiest cruise ship port-of-call in Canada. These ships are essentially floating cities, and when they’re docked, they’re polluting by ways of diesel exhaust fumes, engine noise, and more. We have witnessed the catastrophic effects of climate change whether that be drought, fire, and floods. Cruise ships undeniably contribute a large portion to air and water pollution as well. So, what are we waiting for? Why not shore power today?

I can tell you we have the necessary skills and workforce to implement shore power. Shore power allows ships to connect to BC’s green grid and shut down their diesel-fueled engines while docked. This alternative marine power is an effective way to reduce air emissions and improve local air quality. Let’s not wait, we should take action to reduce GHG now for a cleaner, greener future.

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243 words