

Dear Supporter,

Yet another baby beluga has died at the Vancouver Aquarium. There have been three such beluga deaths in the past six years. Two were 3 years old while one was 1 year old. "Tiqa" who was born in 2008 died on September 16th. This is the 37th known dolphin death resulting from the Aquarium's captivity policies.

Lifeforce has been opposing the City of Vancouver's planned issuance of a Development Permit for a newly proposed Vancouver Aquarium expansion. The Parks Board failed to hold public meetings claiming that the new expansion is similar to the previous one approved in 2006. That one failed to get enough government funding.

In addition to more dolphins in captivity, plans include river otters and beavers. The public had said no to a zoo in Stanley Park that would have had such prisons!

And there is now a live cam project to show the free living beavers in Stanley Park's Beaver Lake. People can enjoy the diversity of wildlife found living freely in the park without animal prisons!

The Aquarium breeding programs have failed. There were no successful orca births. Beluga breeding has also caused sadness and deaths. And due to the inhumane confinement the only two male belugas have been sent to Sea World for breeding.

Cetaceans and other wildlife suffer physically and psychologically because their social and behaviour needs cannot be provided for in captivity. They can develop painful ulcers from the stress and, in most cases, die prematurely. Bacterial infections and pneumonia frequently result in death. After all, they must live in enclosed pools in their urine and feces.

I was quoted in several newspapers as follows:

Vancouver animal rights activist Peter Hamilton said belugas should not be kept in captivity at the aquarium because it lacks natural flora and fauna. "These animals born in captivity are still naturally wild."

The Parks Board has rescinded promises to let the public vote!

Help Stop the Vancouver Aquarium Expansion and Demand a Referendum Question in the November 2011 Civic Election. Write to Mayor Gregor Robertson and Council at mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca AND Parks Board Commissioners at pbcomment@city.vancouver.bc.ca

For Freedom,

Peter Hamilton
Lifeforce Founding Director
(604)649-5258
lifeforcesociety@hotmail.com
www.lifeforcefoundation.org

For further information:

1. 37 Reasons to Boycott the Vancouver Aquarium

<http://lifeforcefoundation.org/newsitem.php?id=142>

2. See Let Stanley Park Be!

<http://lifeforcefoundation.org/stanley.php>

3. Video "Belugas: Far From Home"

http://lifeforcefoundation.org/ecotv_play.php?id=25