

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO**

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 2004  
7:00 PM**

*(RDN Board Chambers)*

**A G E N D A**

**PAGES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**DELEGATIONS**

5 Dan Brady, Coalition to Save Mt. Benson, re support for preservation.

**MINUTES**

6-11 Minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held Tuesday, May 25, 2004.

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE**

***COMMUNITY SERVICES***

**RECREATION**

12-15 Recreation Facilities & Sportsfields Usage Survey.

**REGIONAL GROWTH MANAGEMENT**

16-19 Presentation - Sustainability Workshop Report & Regional Growth Monitoring Advisory Committee Recommendation. (Workshop report included as separate enclosure)

20-73 Drinking Water Protection Initiative Workshop.

74-114 Invasive Plant Strategy for British Columbia.

**TRANSIT**

115-117 Transit Special Event Application – Ocean Idlers Car Club -- Parksville.

118-119 Nanaimo Safer City Alliance Program.

***CORPORATE SERVICES***

**ADMINISTRATION**

120-121 Procedure Bylaw No. 1393.

**FIRE PROTECTION**

- 122-126                 Yellowpoint Waterloo Fire Protection Service Area Establishing Bylaw No. 1388  
- Rondalyn Resort - Area C.
- 127-135                 Regulatory Bylaw – Dashwood Fire Service Area.

***DEVELOPMENT SERVICES***

**BUILDING INSPECTION**

- 136-137                 Section 57 of the Community Charter – Contravention of Bylaw - Infractions.

**EMERGENCY PLANNING**

- 138-152                 Interface Fire Hazards.

***ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES***

**LIQUID WASTE**

- 153-159                 Pump & Haul Local Service Area Amendment Bylaw No. 975.36 - Dolphin  
Drive - Area E.
- 160-164                 Trucked Liquid Waste Disposal Amendment Bylaw No. 988.05 – Liquid Waste  
Septage Fees.
- 165-166                 Renewal of Agreement - Supply of Ferrous Chloride.

**SOLID WASTE**

- 167-169                 Solid Waste Disposal LSA Reserve Fund Expenditure Bylaw No. 1389 -  
Regional Landfill Geogrid Toe Berm - Release of Reserve Funds.

**UTILITIES**

- 170-177                 Pacific Shores Sewer Local Service Area Amendment Bylaw No. 1021.05 and  
Northern Community Sewer LSA Bylaw No. 889.26 - 1520 Terrien Road --  
Area E.

**COMMISSION, ADVISORY & SELECT COMMITTEE**

**Electoral Area 'A' Parks and Green Spaces Advisory Committee.**

- 178-180                 Minutes from the Electoral Area 'A' Parks and Green Spaces Advisory  
Committee meeting held May 20, 2004. (for information)

**Electoral Area 'B' Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee.**

- 181-184                 Minutes from the Electoral Area 'B' Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee  
meeting held May 4, 2004. (for information)

**Regional Growth Monitoring Advisory Committee/State of Sustainability Project.**

185-187 Minutes from the Regional Growth Monitoring Advisory Committee/State of Sustainability Project meeting held May 19, 2004. (for information)

**District 69 Recreation Commission:**

188-190 Minutes of the District 69 Recreation Commission meeting held June 10, 2004. (for information)

191-204 *That the adoption of rates be implemented each calendar year for Recreation Coordinating, January 1<sup>st</sup>; Ravensong Aquatic Centre, January 1<sup>st</sup>; and Oceanside Place, September 1<sup>st</sup>.*

*That a common rate for Oceanside Place and Ravensong Aquatic Centre not be pursued.*

*That the revised Fees and Charges Policy C2.1 be approved.*

*That the 2005 Recreation Program Coordinating Function revenues be increased by 1.5% for 2005.*

*That the Recreation Coordinating Function program recovery rates be maintained to include Preschool, Children, Youth and Community Cooperative at 100%, Adults at 125%, Summer Camps and Family at 75% and Volunteer and Leadership Development programs at 50%, along with the Administration fee of 15%, and a 75-25% split guideline for Term Instructors (Companies).*

*That the non-service-area surcharge at Ravensong Aquatic Centre be removed as of January 1, 2005.*

*That the rentals and admission fees for 2005 at Ravensong Aquatic Centre be approved as detailed in Appendix II of the report and that the attached five year forecast chart in the report be used as a guideline.*

*That the rentals and admission fees for 2004/2005 at Oceanside Place be approved as detailed in Appendix I of the report and that the attached five year forecast chart in the report be used as a guideline.*

**Verbal Reports As Available:**

Municipal Finance Authority

Deep Bay Harbour Authority

Regional Library Board

Treaty Advisory Committee

North Island 911 Corporation

Municipal Insurance Association

Mt. Arrowsmith Biosphere Foundation

Vancouver Island Generation Project Committee

Vancouver Island Health Authority – Project Building Committee

Vancouver Island Health Authority – Joint Capital Planning Committee

Vancouver Island Regional Transportation Advisory Committee

**ADDENDUM**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS OR COMMUNICATIONS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**BOARD INFORMATION** (Separate enclosure on blue paper)

**ADJOURNMENT**

**IN CAMERA**

*That pursuant to Section 90(1)(e) and (g) of the Community Charter the Board proceed to an In Camera meeting to consider items relating to property acquisition and legal matters.*

**Burgoyne, Linda**

---

**From:** Dan Brady [danbrady@shaw.ca]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 25, 2004 12:35 PM  
**To:** Burgoyne, Linda  
**Subject:** FW: Presenting as a delegation

Hello, I just rechecked the email I sent you and I realized that I used May instead of June. Can I be scheduled to appear as a June 22 delegation?

Thank you.

Dan Brady

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Dan Brady [mailto:dانbrady@shaw.ca]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 21, 2004 7:18 PM  
**To:** 'Corpsrv@rdn.bc.ca'  
**Subject:** Presenting as a delegation

I would like to make application to present as a delegation to Committee of the Whole on <sup>June</sup>~~May~~ 22.

The presentation will be made on behalf of **The Coalition to Save Mt. Benson**. The presentation will be asking for support from the Regional District of Nanaimo in terms of supporting the preservation of the front face of Mt. Benson. If you require further information please let me know.

Thank you.

Dan Brady  
Coalition to Save Mt. Benson

5/25/2004

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO**

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 25, 2004, AT 7:11 PM  
IN THE RDN BOARD CHAMBERS**

**Present:**

Director J. Stanhope	Chairperson
Director H. Kreiberg	Electoral Area A
Director G. Lund	Electoral Area B
Director E. Hamilton	Electoral Area C
Director D. Haime	Electoral Area D
Director P. Bibby	Electoral Area E
Director L. Biggemann	Electoral Area F
Director D. Bartram	Electoral Area H
Director R. Longmuir	City of Parksville
Director T. Westbroek	Town of Qualicum Beach
Alternate	
Director B. Dempsey	District of Lantzville
Director L. Sherry	City of Nanaimo
Director R. Cantelon	City of Nanaimo
Alternate	
Director J. Manhas	City of Nanaimo
Director B. Holdom	City of Nanaimo
Director L. McNabb	City of Nanaimo

**Also in Attendance:**

K. Daniels	Chief Administrative Officer
C. Mason	General Manager of Corporate Services
B. Lapham	General Manager of Development Services
N. Connelly	General Manager of Community Services
J. Finnie	General Manager of Environmental Services
N. Tonn	Recording Secretary

**DELEGATIONS**

**Hugh Sinnott, Parksville & District Chamber of Commerce, re Financial Support.**

Mr. Sinnott provided a verbal and written overview of the Parksville and District Chamber of Commerce's mandate and requested that the Board approve an annual financial commitment in the amount of \$17,550 through an establishing bylaw which would meet the applicable Electoral Area portion of funds required to operate the Parksville & District Chamber of Commerce.

**Jo-ann Chase, re Sumar Lane Subdivision – Area G.**

Ms. Chase raised her concerns and those of a number of owners and residents in the vicinity of the Sumar Lane Development with respect to zoning changes which would allow for other than single family residential zoning and an increase in the population density of the Sumar Lane proposed subdivision.

MOVED Director Cantelon, SECONDED Director Holdom, that Adele McKillop and John Barnum be permitted to address the Committee.

CARRIED

**Adele McKillop, re Englishman River Community Water Supply Service Area Rates & Regulations Bylaw No. 1383 and Englishman River Community Water Supply Service Area Water Use Restrictions Bylaw No. 1384.**

Ms. McKillop noted that when asked to consider a proposal to include District Lot 44 into the Englishman River Community Water Service Area, the Board also take into consideration that the Regional Growth Strategy Policy 7B does not support provision of community water to land designated as resource lands to accommodate growth and development.

**John Barnum, re Englishman River Community Water Supply Service Area Rates & Regulations Bylaw No. 1383 and Englishman River Community Water Supply Service Area Water Use Restrictions Bylaw No. 1384.**

Mr. Barnum raised his concerns with residential property development and the impact of production wells on District Lot 44.

#### MINUTES

MOVED Director Sherry, SECONDED Director Bartram, that the minutes of the regular Committee of the Whole meeting held April 27, 2004 be adopted.

CARRIED

#### COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

**K.B. Miller, Private Managed Forest Land Council, re Forest Land Reserve Changes.**

MOVED Director Cantelon, SECONDED Director McNabb, that the correspondence from the Private Managed Forest Land Council with respect to changes to the Forest Land Reserve and the Managed Forest program, be received.

CARRIED

#### CORPORATE SERVICES

#### ADMINISTRATION

**Asset Disposal Policy A2.12 Amendment.**

MOVED Director McNabb, SECONDED Director Cantelon, that Asset Disposal Policy A2.12 be amended to enable the Regional District to donate computer and computer related equipment that has been replaced under our 6 year replacement schedule to Literacy Nanaimo or to School Districts 68 & 69 for educational purposes.

CARRIED

#### FINANCE

**2003 Financial Information Report.**

MOVED Director Holdom, SECONDED Director Bartram, that the 2003 *Financial Information Act* report be received and approved.

CARRIED

#### FIRE PROTECTION

**Coombs-Hilliers Fire Protection Service Area Boundary Amendment Bylaw No. 1022.04 & Coombs-Hilliers Fire Protection Service Area Capital Charge Bylaw No. 1387.**

MOVED Director Biggemann, SECONDED Director McNabb,:

1. That "Coombs-Hilliers Fire Protection Service Area Boundary Amendment Bylaw No. 1022.04, 2004" be introduced for first three readings.

2. That "Coombs-Hilliers Fire Protection Service Area Capital Charge Bylaw No. 1387, 2004" be introduced for first three readings.

CARRIED

### **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

#### **LIQUID WASTE**

**Pump and Haul Local Service Area Bylaw No. 975.35 – P. & V. Wild – 261 Cheddar Road – Area G.**

MOVED Director Sherry, SECONDED Director McNabb,:

1. That the boundaries of the RDN Pump and Haul Local Service Area Bylaw 975 be amended to include Lot 1, District Lot 80, Newcastle Land District, Plan 49865. (Cheddar Road, Area G)
2. That "Regional District of Nanaimo Pump and Haul Local Service Area Amendment Bylaw No. 975.35, 2004" be read three times and forwarded to the Inspector of Municipalities for approval.

CARRIED

#### **SOLID WASTE**

**Landfill and Transfer Station Yard Waste Composting Quote Results.**

MOVED Director Sherry, SECONDED Director Bartram, that Qualicum Farms Limited be awarded the contract for composting yard waste from the Regional Landfill and the contract for composting yard waste from Church Road Transfer Station for \$36.50 and \$28.50 per tonne respectively.

CARRIED

**Non-Profit Organizations – Solid Waste Tipping Fee Waivers.**

MOVED Director Sherry, SECONDED Director McNabb,:

1. That the Board support a policy of granting waste disposal fee relief only for illegal dumping clean-up and to non-profit organizations that incorporate waste reduction as a core function. Other organizations, such as thrift store operations, would not qualify for fee relief.
2. That the Board direct staff to prepare a bylaw for Board consideration that incorporates a policy of waste disposal fee relief for illegal dumping clean-up and to non-profit organizations that incorporate waste reduction as a core function.

MOVED Director Westbrook, SECONDED Director Sherry, that the motion be amended to include the following:

3. That staff be directed to meet with the thrift store operators to help identify recycling opportunities and to direct recyclable waste and improve recycling practices.

CARRIED

MOVED Director Holdom, SECONDED Director D. Haime, that Recommendation No. 1 be amended by replacing the word "would" with the word "may" and that the words "pending discussions with thrift operators on proper recycling practices" be added after the word "relief".

CARRIED

The question was called on the main motion as amended.

The motion CARRIED.



**New and Emerging Residual Waste Management Technologies Update.**

MOVED Director Sherry, SECONDED Director McNabb, that the Board receive the interim update report on New and Emerging Residual Waste Management Technologies Update for information.

CARRIED

**UTILITIES**

**Nanoose Bay Water Supply Service Area – Dolphin Drive Watermain Replacement Contract Award.**

MOVED Director Sherry, SECONDED Director Holdom, that the Regional District of Nanaimo award the Dolphin Drive Watermain Replacement project to Knappett Industries Ltd. for the tendered amount of \$128,129.94.

CARRIED

**Englishman River Community Water Supply Service Area Rates & Regulations Bylaw No. 1383 and Englishman River Community Water Supply Service Area Water Use Restrictions Bylaw No. 1384.**

MOVED Director Sherry, SECONDED Director Biggemann, that “Englishman River Community Water Supply Service Area Rates and Regulations Bylaw No. 1383, 2004” be introduced for first three readings.

CARRIED

MOVED Director Sherry, SECONDED Director Biggemann, that “Englishman River Community Water Supply Service Area Rates and Regulations Bylaw No. 1383, 2004” having received three readings, be adopted.

CARRIED

MOVED Director Sherry, SECONDED Director Biggemann, that “Englishman River Community Water Supply Service Area Water Use Restrictions Bylaw No. 1384, 2004” be introduced for first three readings.

CARRIED

MOVED Director Sherry, SECONDED Director Biggemann, that “Englishman River Community Water Supply Service Area Water Use Restrictions Bylaw No. 1384, 2004” having received three readings, be adopted.

CARRIED

**COMMISSION, ADVISORY & SELECT COMMITTEE**

**Electoral Area ‘A’ Parks and Green Spaces Advisory Committee.**

MOVED Director Kreiberg, SECONDED Director Biggemann, that the minutes of the Electoral Area ‘A’ Parks and Green Spaces Advisory Committee meeting held March 18, 2004 be received for information.

CARRIED

**Electoral Area ‘B’ Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee.**

MOVED Director Lund, SECONDED Director Cantelon, that the minutes of the Electoral Area ‘B’ Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee meeting held March 8, 2004 be received for information.

CARRIED

**Landfill Site Liaison Committee.**

MOVED Director Sherry, SECONDED Director Cantelon, that the minutes of the Landfill Site Liaison Committee meeting held March 31, 2004 be received for information.

CARRIED

**Regional Growth Monitoring Advisory Committee/State of Sustainability Project.**

MOVED Director Bartram, SECONDED Director Holdom, that the minutes of the Regional Growth Monitoring Advisory Committee/State of Sustainability Project meeting held May 5, 2004 be received for information.

CARRIED

**Grants-in-Aid Committee.**

MOVED Director Hamilton, SECONDED Director Sherry, that the minutes of the Grants-in-Aid Committee meeting held May 6, 2004 be received for information.

CARRIED

MOVED Director Hamilton, SECONDED Director Sherry, that the following grants be approved:

*School District 68:*

Cedar School & Community Enhancement Society	\$	880
--	----	-----

*School District 69:*

District 69 Family Resource Association	\$	2,054
Lighthouse Country Business Association	\$	500
Pacific Vocal Institute	\$	2,100
Parksville Meeting Place	\$	705

CARRIED

**District 69 Recreation Commission.**

MOVED Director Bartram, SECONDED Director Longmuir, that the minutes of the District 69 Recreation Commission meeting held May 13, 2004 be received for information.

CARRIED

MOVED Director Bartram, SECONDED Director Longmuir, that the following grants be approved:

*Community Grants:*

Arrowsmith Cricket & Sports Association	\$	400
Arrowsmith Search & Rescue Society	\$	2,500
Building Learning Together -- Teaching from the Heart	\$	280
Building Learning Together – Words on Wheels Bus	\$	1,700
Mid Vancouver Island Habitat Enhance. Soc. – Jr. Stream Keepers	\$	700
Moorecroft Camp Society	\$	1,720
Nanoose Place Landscaping Project	\$	1,750
Qualicum Beach Family Day	\$	750
Ravensong Aquatic Club	\$	1,250

*Youth Grants:*

Ballenas Stunt and Cheer Squad	\$	1,000
Erik Goetzinger BMX Club	\$	2,500
District 69 Family Resource Association – Outreach Program	\$	2,000
Kidfest – Youth Activity	\$	1,075
Nanoose Bay Parent Advisory – Adventure Camp	\$	1,000
Occaside Arts Council – Children’s Theatre	\$	700

CARRIED

**IN CAMERA**

MOVED Director Sherry, SECONDED Director McNabb, that pursuant to Section 90(1)(e) and (g) of the *Community Charter* the Board proceed to an In Camera meeting to consider items relating to property acquisition and legal matters.

CARRIED

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED Director Sherry, SECONDED Director McNabb, that this meeting adjourn to allow for an In Camera meeting.

CARRIED

TIME: 8:14 PM

---

CHAIRPERSON



<b>REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO</b>			
JUN 11 2004			
CHAIR		GMCrS	
CAO		GMDS	
GMCrS		GMES	
<i>Coll</i> ✓			

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Neil Connelly  
General Manager of Community Services

**DATE:** June 10, 2004

**FROM:** Tom Osborne  
Manager of Recreation and Parks

**FILE:** 5920-20-D69

**SUBJECT:** Recreation Facilities and Sportsfields Usage Survey

**PURPOSE**

To report on the proposed method to conduct the usage survey for recreation facilities and sportsfields as part of the service Agreements with the City of Nanaimo, City of Parksville and the Town of Qualicum Beach.

**BACKGROUND**

On completion of the Regional Services Review in 2000, the Regional District entered into Agreements with the City of Nanaimo, City of Parksville and Town of Qualicum Beach to share the costs of certain recreation facilities and sports fields.

In School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith), the City of Nanaimo, Electoral Areas 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' share in the operating costs of the City's four major recreation centers, ten City sports fields and two Electoral Area sportsfields (Area 'B' and Area 'C'). In School District No. 69 (Parksville-Qualicum), the City of Parksville, Town of Qualicum Beach and Electoral Areas 'E', 'F', 'G' and 'H' share in the operating costs of two City of Parksville sportsfields and one Town of Qualicum Beach sportsfield. The jurisdiction, which owns the facility, is responsible for the capital cost of that facility.

The principles for cost sharing in both Agreements are centered on the usage that each area makes of the facility. With respect to City of Nanaimo major recreation facilities (arenas and pools), usage is based upon 'public sessions attended' by each jurisdiction. With respect to sportsfields in both District 68 and District 69, usage is based upon team registration statistics using street addresses.

The Agreement requires that every three years a usage survey be conducted. In 2001, as per the Agreements, surveys were conducted with the results shown below. The results of the 2001 survey were then applied to the funding ratio for the 2002, 2003 and 2004 Annual Budgets.

In dealing with the incorporation of Lantzville for the 2004 Annual budget, staff used the 2001 survey results and separated those users from within the incorporated boundary from those from Electoral Area 'D'.

**2001 Survey:**

***District 68 Survey Results:***

**District 68 Recreation Facilities**

Participant	2001 Survey	2001 Census Population %
City of Nanaimo	88.1	82.5
Electoral Area A	4.9	7.3
Electoral Area B	1.5	4.0
Electoral Area C	0.4	1.0
Electoral Area D	5.2	5.2

**District 68 Sportsfields**

Participant	2001 Survey	2001 Census Population %
City of Nanaimo	85.0	82.5
Electoral Area A	7.7	7.3
Electoral Area B	0.4	4.0
Electoral Area C	0.8	1.0
Electoral Area D	6.1	5.2

***District 69 Survey Results:***

**District 69 Sportsfields**

Participant	2001 Survey	2001 Census Population %
City of Parksville	30.8	27.3
Town of QB	22.4	18.3
Electoral Area E	10.5	12.8
Electoral Area F	14.6	14.7
Electoral Area G	17.3	18.6
Electoral Area H	4.4	8.2

**2004 Survey:**

The 2004 Annual Budget has \$15,000 of funding allocated to conduct the 2004 survey, the results of which will be applied to the 2005 Annual Budget. On December 31, 2005 the Agreements come up for renewal.

It is proposed that the RDN retain the personnel to conduct the survey and to tabulate the results for staff to present to the Regional Board prior to the adoption of the 2005 annual budget.

In District 68 it is proposed that the person retained conduct on-site surveys at the City of Nanaimo pools and arenas as agreed to under the terms of the Agreement. Surveys will be conducted over a period of days and at different times during the months of September and October. This person will conduct the survey beside the admission clerks at the various facilities and street addresses will be requested of participants as they pay for their admission. In 2001 surveyors were located in lobby area of each facility and requested postal codes of approaching participants. The new approach will allow for all users, including unaccompanied youth or children to be questioned at the time of payment, and City of Nanaimo staff has agreed to the new survey method.

To obtain City of Nanaimo field use statistics, a letter will be sent to all regular field user groups requesting their submission of their registrant's street addresses. The letter will be co-signed by the Regional Board Chair and the Chair of the City of Nanaimo Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission and will express the need for this information to ensure that future operational costs are applied equitably to those member areas that use the fields detailed in the Agreement.

In District 69, RDN Recreation and Parks staff have already obtained the necessary user group information from regular field users. This information will be given to the survey personnel to tabulate and the results will be reported to the Regional Board during the 2005 Annual Budget process.

#### Other Survey Implications:

**Public Sessions Attended Data.** The original survey data used by the consultants for recommending cost sharing based upon usage for City of Nanaimo Recreation Facilities represented only 'public sessions attended'. The Agreement between the Regional District and the City of Nanaimo states that usage will be based on public sessions attended. However, staff has been advised that a greater proportion of usage in recreation facilities, particularly in relation to arenas, is based on participation in team sports rather than public sessions.

**Out of District Participant Data.** A second issue to be noted is that the language in the Agreements for both District 68 and District 69 is unclear with respect to how to address usage from residents outside of the participating areas. The methodology applied for cost sharing in 2002 is consistent with the methodology used for cost sharing in 2001. 'Out of district' data was removed from the total sample size and the percentages were recalculated on the remaining sample.

While the cost sharing Agreements do not address the two issues raised above, staff recommend that these items be discussed by the parties when the Agreements come up for renewal.

#### **ALTERNATIVES**

1. To proceed with the 2004 Recreation Facilities and Sportsfields Usage Survey and use the new statistical information obtained for the 2005 Annual Budget process.
2. Not to proceed with the 2004 Recreation Facilities and Sportsfields Usage Survey and provide alternative direction.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00) has been allocated to implement the survey in 2004.

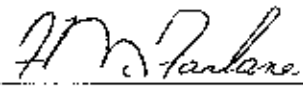
**SUMMARY**

In accordance with the Recreation Facilities and Sportsfield Agreements between the Regional District and its member municipalities, a survey was undertaken in 2001 to establish cost sharing percentages for these facilities and formed the basis for cost sharing for the 2002, 2003 and 2004 Annual Budgets.

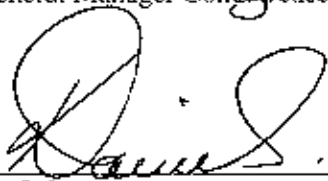
As per the Agreements, a new survey is required to be conducted in 2004. Survey personnel are required to conduct the survey and the results will be used for the 2005 Annual Budget.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the 2004 Recreation Facilities and Sportsfields Usage Survey report be received as information.

  
for \_\_\_\_\_  
Report Writer

  
\_\_\_\_\_   
General Manager Concurrence

  
\_\_\_\_\_   
CAO Concurrence

**COMMENTS:**



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO	
JUN 11 2004	
CHAIR	GMCrS
CAO	GMDS
GMCmS	GMFS
DATE: <i>Coll</i>	
FILE: 6780 30 SOS	

MEMORANDUM

TO: Neil Connelly  
General Manager, Community Services

June 9, 2004

FROM: Christina Thomas  
Senior Planner, Community Services

SUBJECT: SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT - SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOP REPORT & REGIONAL GROWTH MONITORING ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

PURPOSE

The purposes of this report are to provide for consideration:

- the Workshop Report for the Saturday, April 3, 2004 Sustainability Workshop; and
- the Regional Growth Monitoring Advisory Committee's recommendation regarding the most immediate actions the Board should consider as a result of the Sustainability Workshop.

BACKGROUND

The Workshop Report for the Saturday, April 3, 2004 Sustainability Workshop is provided for consideration (see separate enclosure). The Regional Growth Monitoring Advisory Committee (RGMAC) guided the development of the Workshop Report through discussion at its May 5, 2004 and May 19, 2004 meetings. RGMAC Chair Director Bill Holdom and RGMAC Deputy Chair Dave Bartram intend to deliver a PowerPoint presentation about the Workshop, on behalf of the RGMAC, at the June 22, 2004 Committee of the Whole meeting.

The Sustainability Workshop was developed, organized and implemented by the RGMAC<sup>1</sup>, with the assistance of Regional District staff, to raise public awareness about sustainability and to obtain public feedback to be used in the development of a set of measures or indicators of regional sustainability. Public awareness about sustainability was raised through Director Holdom's presentation about the current activities of the RDN to advance sustainability, Mike Harcourt's presentation about planning for long-term sustainability, and Mark Holland's presentation about how sustainability could be advanced in the region. Public input regarding the desired characteristics of the region was obtained through a series of individual and group assignments. The Workshop Report provides a summary of these presentations and participant perspectives about the sustainability of the region.

Participant evaluation form feedback submitted by 93 of the approximately 150 participants indicates that the objectives of the Sustainability Workshop were achieved. The table below illustrates the key participant evaluation form findings:

<sup>1</sup> The RGMAC is an 11 member Board appointed committee, and includes Director Bill Holdom (Chair), Director Dave Bartram (Deputy Chair), Gordon Buckingham, Betty Collins, Ross Peterson, Brian Anderson, Douglas Anderson, Adele McKillop, Janet Farooq, Sylvia Neden and Sharon Thomson.



PROPORTION OF PARTICIPANTS THAT SUBMITTED EVALUATION FORMS THAT AGREED OR STRONGLY AGREED THAT THE SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOP...	
... increased their awareness about sustainability:	78%
...increased their awareness about what the RDN is doing to advance the sustainability of the region:	86%
...provided them with an opportunity to share their perspectives about the sustainability of the region:	98%

The Sustainability Workshop is the first of seven components of the State of Sustainability Project approved by the Board on January 13, 2003. The Sustainability Project is being conducted to assess the region's progress towards sustainability, to make residents aware of the region's progress towards sustainability and to provide more and better opportunities to involve residents of the region in that assessment. The seven key components of the Project are: [1] a public event to discuss what sustainability means in the context of the Nanaimo region; [2] review, refinement and confirmation of a set of indicators or measures of sustainability; [3] a report that documents the sustainability of the Nanaimo region, based on the chosen sustainability indicators; [4] a public event to discuss the results of that report; [5] a report that provides ideas about how the sustainability of the region can be accelerated [6] the development and implementation of a regional sustainability awards program and [7] citizen committee involvement in the first six deliverables.

Given the high degree of enthusiasm that Sustainability Workshop participants expressed about sustainability and their wish to see the RDN increase its efforts to make the region more sustainable, the RGMAC passed the following resolution:

*WHEREAS the Regional District of Nanaimo has a Regional Growth Strategy that provides a solid long-term planning framework for making the region more sustainable<sup>2</sup> in terms of its economy, environment and people, and*

*WHEREAS the Regional District of Nanaimo is undertaking the State of Sustainability Project to examine the sustainability of the region, and*

*WHEREAS participant feedback received at the Sustainability Workshop conducted as a part of the State of Sustainability Project indicates a high degree of enthusiasm and support for enhancing the sustainability of the region, and hence the Regional Growth Strategy;*

*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Regional Growth Monitoring Advisory Committee encourages the Regional District of Nanaimo to continue to support the*

<sup>2</sup> The goals of the Regional Growth Strategy are:

- to limit sprawl and focus development within urban containment boundaries,
- to encourage mixed use communities that include places to live, play, shop and access services,
- to protect and strengthen rural economy and lifestyle,
- to protect the environment and minimize ecological damage related to growth and development,
- to improve mobility,
- to make the economy more vibrant and sustainable,
- to provide efficient services, and
- to facilitate an understanding of and commitment to growth management.

*vision, goals and policies of the Regional Growth Strategy and to consider undertaking the following new initiatives:*

- *establishing green building guidelines, applying for federal funding under green building programs, and encouraging all future development in the Regional District of Nanaimo to build along such green building guidelines;*
- *establishing development and land use guidelines that will ensure the conservation of water and protection of watersheds and aquifers in the Regional District of Nanaimo with the goal of providing an adequate supply of good quality water for future generations.*

The RGMAC recommendation is a preliminary one, based on work the RGMAC has completed to date. It is anticipated that the RGMAC will provide additional recommendations in the future based on information it obtains through its work on the other components of the State of Sustainability Project.

#### **ALTERNATIVES**

1. Receive the Workshop Report for the Saturday, April 3, 2004 Sustainability Workshop and the recommendation of the Regional Growth Monitoring Advisory Committee.
2. Receive the Workshop Report for the Saturday, April 3, 2004 Sustainability Workshop and the recommendation of the Regional Growth Monitoring Advisory Committee, and request additional information about a specific topic related to the Workshop, the State of Sustainability Project or the Regional Growth Monitoring Advisory Committee recommendation.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Receipt of the Workshop Report for the Saturday, April 3, 2004 Sustainability Workshop and the RGMAC recommendation has no financial implications.

The Regional Growth Management Services 2004 budget provides for the components of the State of Sustainability Project that are to be undertaken in 2004. The allocation of resources to future components of the Project will be considered as a part of the approval of budgets for those years.

#### **GROWTH MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

Participant feedback received at the Sustainability Workshop indicates that there is a high degree of enthusiasm and support for initiatives designed to enhance the sustainability of the region, such as the Regional Growth Strategy.

The Workshop Report for the Saturday, April 3, 2004 Sustainability Workshop provides information that will be useful in the development of indicators or measures of sustainability. Once indicators are selected a report will be prepared about the sustainability of the Nanaimo region based on the selected indicators. This report will provide information that will be useful in the consideration of the Regional Growth Strategy and possible future amendments to it.

## PUBLIC CONSULTATION IMPLICATIONS

Participant evaluation form feedback for the Sustainability Workshop indicates that the event was successful in achieving its objectives of raising public awareness about sustainability and providing an opportunity for the public to share their perspectives about the sustainability of the region.

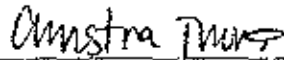
It would appear that workshops are a successful method of raising public awareness and providing an opportunity for residents to discuss their perspectives about a particular topic.

## SUMMARY

The Workshop Report for the Saturday, April 3, 2004 Sustainability Workshop is provided for consideration (*see separate enclosure*). It documents the first of seven deliverables of the State of Sustainability Project approved by the Board on January 13, 2003. Also provided for consideration is the RGMAC's recommendation regarding the most immediate actions the Board should consider as a result of the Sustainability Workshop.

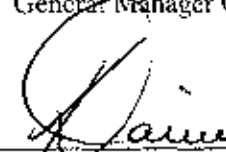
## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Workshop Report for the Saturday, April 3, 2004 Sustainability Workshop be received.
2. That the recommendation of the Regional Growth Monitoring Advisory Committee regarding the most immediate actions the Board should consider as a result of the Sustainability Workshop be received.



Report Writer

  
General Manager Concurrence

  
CAO Concurrence



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO	
JUN 10 2004	
CHAIR	GMCrs
CAO	GMOS
GMCS	GMES

MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Neil Connelly  
General Manager, Community Services

**DATE:** June 8, 2004

**FROM:** Christina Thomas  
Senior Planner, Community Services

**FILE:** 6780-50-RDWP

**SUBJECT:** DRINKING WATER PROTECTION INITIATIVE WORKSHOP

PURPOSE

- To provide information about:
- feedback received at the May 8, 2004 Drinking Water Quality Workshop, and
  - feedback received in response to the April 30, 2004 Drinking Water Quality Discussion Paper.

BACKGROUND

The Workshop Report for the May 8, 2004 Drinking Water Quality Workshop and the Feedback Report for Drinking Water Quality Discussion Paper are provided for consideration (see Attachments #1 & #2) pursuant to the Drinking Water Protection Workshop Initiative Terms of Reference approved by the Board on October 14, 2003.

Ninety-one residents from throughout the region participated in the Saturday, May 8, 2004 Drinking Water Quality Workshop conducted by the Regional District of Nanaimo, and twelve residents<sup>1</sup> contributed their ideas by submitting the Drinking Water Quality Discussion Paper Comment Form to the Regional District by the May 21, 2004 deadline.

The overall purpose of the Workshop and Discussion Paper was to obtain information for the Board to use in the development of a 'action plan' that identifies actions to take in regard to drinking water quality. In that regard, the Workshop was held to:

- raise public awareness about the characteristics of good quality drinking water, the Provincial government's perspectives about drinking water quality, drinking water law, drinking water quality issues in the region and the Regional District of Nanaimo's activities as they relate to drinking water; and
- to provide an opportunity for residents to share their perspectives about what action should be taken in regard to drinking water quality.

Workshop participant event evaluation form feedback indicates a very high degree of participant agreement that the Regional District achieved these objectives through the Workshop.

Public feedback received at the Workshop and on the Comment Forms suggests that the following broad categories of actions be considered to address drinking water quality:

<sup>1</sup> All of the Discussion Paper Comment Form respondents attended the Workshop.

**1. Obtain more and better information related to the provision of a reliable, long-term supply of quality drinking water.**

Residents would like more data to be readily available to the public and decision makers about:

- water quality monitoring (for all types of water providers, including local government, improvement districts, water user communities, water utilities, private wells and other systems),
- the quantity of water available,
- aquifer locations and characteristics,
- the location of groundwater recharge areas;
- the number and location of wells,
- the performance of wells,
- best management practices for activities that might detrimentally impact drinking water quality.

**2. Educate and raise public awareness about all aspects of drinking water provision.**

Residents would like to become more aware and educated about drinking water issues, including:

- methods of conserving water,
- methods of waste disposal that minimize or eliminate negative impacts on water quality,
- potential ways that drinking water quality can be jeopardized;
- information about how watersheds are being protected;
- water conservation and environmental protection as it relates to drinking water quality;
- water management;
- the different methods of obtaining drinking water and the requirements of all the different types of providers;
- water quality monitoring test results for all water providers in the region;
- the cost of obtaining drinking water from local supplies versus bottled water.

Residents suggest that public awareness be raised about these matters through the following means:

- the establishment of a one-stop resource centre for drinking water;
- the Regional District of Nanaimo web site;
- engaging the public in discussions through events like the Workshop;
- offering educational programs;
- establishing a school program to educate children about drinking water protection;
- placing signs in ditches to inform people about drinking water contamination possibilities

**3. Acquire lands in watersheds.**

Residents suggest that land in watersheds be acquired through purchase, negotiation or expropriation. Residents also suggest that groundwater recharge areas be protected through purchase, negotiation or expropriation.

**4. Lobby for legislative changes to enhance watershed protection.**

Residents suggest that legislation be changed so that drinking water is better protected. Suggestions include the enactment of legislation that:

- Eliminates agricultural and forestry practices in watersheds (such as waste disposal, clear cutting, pesticide application, fertilizer application) that might negatively impact drinking water;
  - Establishes more rigorous requirements regarding the location of water intakes and outflows as it relates to drinking water quality;
  - Protects watersheds, both surface and groundwater;
  - Increases the ability of local governments to protect drinking water sources in their areas;
  - Requires the submission of water well drilling records and well logs to the Province for inclusion in a database;
  - Establishes drinking water provision as the highest priority watershed use.
5. **Changes to land use, development and servicing practices to improve drinking water protection.**

Residents suggested a range of different land use, development and servicing practices to enhance drinking water protection, including:

- The development of a watershed management strategy in cooperation with all of the jurisdictions with related responsibilities;
- Installing ozonation and ultra-violet equipment rather than continuing to use chlorine as the main drinking water purifier;
- Replacing septic systems with community sewer systems;
- Increasing the minimum parcel size in rural areas and aqua recharge areas;
- Protecting wetlands and riparian areas;
- Providing drinking water to property owners who are unable to obtain a sufficient water supply from their onsite wells;
- Locating drinking water intakes above pollution producing areas, such as farms, homes and industries;
- Limiting growth and development.

The final step remaining to be completed as a part of the Drinking Water Protection Workshop Initiative is the development of an 'action plan' that outlines actions to be taken to address drinking water quality issues in the region. It is suggested that the Board initiate discussion about this matter and direct staff to prepare an 'action plan' for its consideration.

#### **ALTERNATIVES**

1. Receive the Workshop Report for the May 8, 2004 Drinking Water Quality Workshop and the Feedback Report for April 30, 2004 Drinking Water Quality Discussion Paper.
2. Receive the Workshop Report for the May 8, 2004 Drinking Water Quality Workshop and the Feedback Report for the April 30, 2004 Drinking Water Quality Discussion Paper, and request that an 'action plan' that identifies actions to be taken in regard to drinking water quality be developed for the Board's consideration.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Receipt of the reports has no financial implications. Funds for this project are provided in the 2004 Regional Growth Management Services budget.

## PUBLIC CONSULTATION IMPLICATIONS

Public feedback received from Drinking Water Quality Workshop participants indicates a high degree of enthusiasm and support for workshops as an effective method for engaging the public in a discussion about key policy issues. The preparation of the recommended 'action plan' will help illustrate how the Regional District intends to use the public feedback received.

## SUMMARY

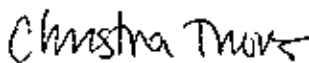
As a part of the Drinking Water Protection Workshop Initiative approved by the Board on October 14, 2003, the Regional District of Nanaimo conducted a Drinking Water Quality Workshop on Saturday, May 8, 2004, published a Drinking Water Quality Discussion Paper on April 30, 2004, and provided an additional opportunity for residents to contribute their perspectives via submission of a Discussion Paper Comment Form.

The Workshop Report for the Drinking Water Quality Workshop and the Feedback Report for Drinking Water Quality Discussion Paper document the public feedback received through each of these mechanisms. Both of these reports are provided for the Board's consideration of receipt (*see separate enclosures*).

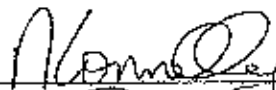
It is recommended that the Board consider these reports in its development of an 'action plan' regarding actions to take to address drinking water quality, and that the Board initiate discussion about the 'action plan' that identifies actions to be taken to address drinking water quality in the region.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

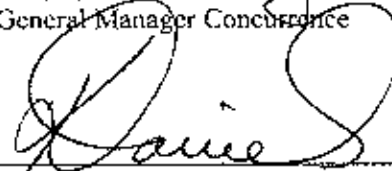
1. That the Workshop Report for the May 8, 2004 Drinking Water Quality Workshop be received.
2. That the Feedback Report for the April 30, 2004 Drinking Water Quality Discussion Paper be received.
3. That an 'action plan' that identifies actions to be taken to address drinking water quality in the region be prepared for the Board's consideration.



Report Writer



General Manager Concurrence



CAO Concurrence



REGIONAL  
DISTRICT  
OF NANAIMO

## **WORKSHOP REPORT**

*for the Saturday, May 8, 2004*

# **DRINKING WATER QUALITY WORKSHOP**

May 27, 2004





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Executive Summary	iii
Introduction	1
Workshop Proceedings	2
Presentation: Welcome	2
Presentation: Introduction to the Day	2
Presentation: Drinking Water Quality	3
Exercise: What Are the Key Drinking Water Challenges?	4
Presentation: Provincial Perspective – Drinking Water Quality	5
Presentation: Drinking Water Quality – What are the Rules?	8
Presentation: Drinking Water Quality Issues in the Region	11
Exercise: Who Provides Your Drinking Water?	13
Presentation: Regional District of Nanaimo Role – Drinking Water Quality	14
Exercise: What Should be Done to Address Drinking Water Quality Issues	17
Exercise/Presentation: Top Priority Actions to Address Drinking Water Quality Issues	18
Presentation: Next Steps	18
Conclusion	19
Appendices	21
A – Speaker Biographical Information	23
B - Participants	25
C – Key Drinking Water Quality Challenges	27
D - Ideas Regarding What Should be Done to Address Drinking Water Quality Issues	30
E – Top Priority Actions to Address Drinking Water Quality Issues	35



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On Saturday, May 8, 2004, 91 residents participated in the Drinking Water Quality Workshop conducted by the Regional District of Nanaimo. The Drinking Water Quality Workshop was conducted because "Watershed / Drinking Water Protection" is Strategic Priority #3 in the Board's strategic plan, "Strategic Directions 2003-2005".

The Drinking Water Quality Workshop was held to raise public awareness about drinking water quality and to obtain public feedback about actions that should be taken to address drinking water quality issues in the region.

Representatives from the Ministry of Health, the Vancouver Island Health Authority, the Regional District of Nanaimo and the law firm Staples McDannold Stewart raised public awareness about drinking water quality through a series of presentations.

Public input regarding actions that should be taken to address drinking water quality issues was obtained through small group discussion exercises.

Workshop participant discussion suggested that three main types of actions be taken to address drinking water quality in the region:

**1. Obtain better information about drinking water.**

Workshop participants would like more data to be readily available to the public and decision makers about: water quality monitoring test results (for all types of water providers, including local government, improvement districts, water user communities, water utilities, private wells and other systems), the quantity of water available, aquifer locations and characteristics, the number and location of wells, the performance of wells, best management practices for activities that might detrimentally impact drinking water quality,

**2. Educate and raise public awareness about drinking water issues.**

Workshop participants would like the public to become more aware and educated about drinking water issues, including methods of conserving water, methods of waste disposal that minimize or eliminate negative impacts on water quality, potential ways that drinking water quality can be jeopardized.

**3. Protect watersheds.**

Workshop participants would like steps taken to improve the protection of land in water source areas. Suggested steps include: acquiring land in watersheds through purchase, negotiation or expropriation, enacting more rigorous land use and development regulations, eliminating agricultural and forestry practices in watersheds (such as waste disposal, clear cutting, pesticide application, and fertilizer application) that might negatively impact drinking water, and developing a watershed management strategy in cooperation with all of the jurisdictions with related responsibilities.

This Workshop Report is intended to be used as a source of information in the development of an 'action plan' that identifies actions to be taken to address drinking water quality.



# INTRODUCTION

On Saturday, May 8, 2004, 91 residents participated in the Drinking Water Quality Workshop conducted by the Regional District of Nanaimo. The Drinking Water Quality Workshop was conducted because "Watershed / Drinking Water Protection" is Strategic Priority #3 in the Board's strategic plan, "Strategic Directions 2003-2005".

The purposes of the Drinking Water Quality Workshop were to:

1. Raise public awareness about:
  - o The characteristics of good quality drinking water;
  - o The Provincial government's perspectives about drinking water quality;
  - o The law as it pertains to drinking water quality;
  - o Drinking water quality issues in the region; and
  - o Regional District of Nanaimo activities as they related to drinking water quality; and
2. To obtain public feedback regarding actions that should be taken to address drinking water quality issues.

Representatives from the Ministry of Health, the Vancouver Island Health Authority, the Regional District of Nanaimo and the law firm Staples McDannold Stewart raised public awareness about drinking water quality through a series of presentations. Appendix A provides brief biographical information about the Workshop speakers.

Regional District of Nanaimo staff members and an elected Director served as small group facilitators<sup>1</sup> and facilitated participant discussion regarding actions that should be taken to address drinking water quality through a variety of participatory activities.

Ninety-one residents from throughout the region (*see Appendix B*) participated in the Workshop. Any resident in the region was welcome to attend the event. Residents were informed about the event through three newspaper advertisements, information posted on the RDN web site, and letters sent to over 200 individuals and organizations with roles, responsibilities and interests related to drinking water quality.

This report documents the proceedings of the Workshop. The report will be used as a source of information in the development of an 'action plan' regarding drinking water quality.

---

<sup>1</sup> Al Stanley, Blaine Rusell, Bob Lapham, Carey Melver, Christina Thomas, Director Dave Bartram, Deb Churko, Dennis Trudeau, John Finnie, Kceva Kehler, Mike Donnelly, Neil Connelly, and Tom Osborne.

# WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS

## **Presentation: Welcome (9:00 – 9:10)**

Director Joe Stanhope, Chair of the Regional District of Nanaimo Board, welcomed participants to the Drinking Water Quality Workshop, and thanked participants for dedicating a day to the discussion of a very important topic. He stated that drinking water is an essential resource for human health and survival, and that the importance of safe drinking water to human health has been highlighted in the last few years as a result of the Walkerton tragedy, and other incidences of water contamination that have resulted in human illness and even death.

The Chair stated that drinking water quality is a concern of the Regional District, both as a level of government and as a water supplier. As such, Stanhope noted that the RDN wants to ensure that proper systems are in place so that good quality drinking water is available to all residents in the region. It was noted that the Regional District wishes to work with other levels of government and interested parties to help ensure that good quality drinking water is available for all. To that end, the Ministry of Health was thanked for providing a grant that helped make the Workshop possible.

Director Stanhope described the key steps the Regional District of Nanaimo has taken to help protect drinking water quality. It was noted that at the long range, strategic level the Board adopted a Regional Growth Strategy in 1997 which focuses development into designated growth areas and limits development elsewhere, where it is less appropriate. Further, it was noted that in response to public feedback received during the Regional Growth Strategy Review completed in 2003 the Board established "Watershed/Drinking Water Protection" as Strategic Priority #3 in its strategic plan, "Strategic Directions 2003-2005". The Drinking Water Quality Workshop is a result of the identification of this strategic priority.

Director Stanhope described the purposes of the Drinking Water Quality Workshop. It was noted that the Workshop has two purposes. The first purpose of the Workshop is to provide information about drinking water quality. The second purpose of the Workshop is to listen to participant ideas regarding what should be done to address drinking water quality in the region. It was noted that a Workshop Report will be prepared to document the proceedings of the Workshop, and that the Workshop Report will be a source of information used in the development of an 'action plan' regarding drinking water quality.

Director Stanhope alerted participants to an additional opportunity for residents to provide ideas to the Board regarding actions to take to address drinking water quality. It was noted that the Regional District has published a Drinking Water Quality Discussion Paper, and that the Paper contains a comment form that is to be submitted to the Regional District offices by May 21, 2004.

## **Presentation: Introduction to the Day (9:10 – 9:20)**

Jamie Chicanot (ADR Education), facilitator for the event on behalf of the Regional District of Nanaimo, provided an overview about what would happen during the Drinking Water Quality Workshop. He indicated that the Workshop would consist of a series of educational presentations about drinking water quality each followed by an opportunity for participants to ask the presenters questions, and an opportunity to provide feedback to the Regional District through a series of small group participant discussions.

## Presentation: Drinking Water Quality (9:20 – 9:40)

Dr. Fred Rockwell, Medical Health Officer (Central Island), Vancouver Island Health Authority, delivered a presentation regarding drinking water quality and the medical health officer's perspective.

Dr. Rockwell stated that it is a myth that our water has always been good so we don't have to worry. He noted that in reality there have been 29 recognized outbreaks between 1980 and 2000, and that there was an incidence of toxoplasmosis in Victoria in 1995. Environmental degradation caused by human population growth, intensive agriculture and industrial activity as impacted drinking water.

The presenter described some of the different types of outbreaks that have affected drinking water, including toxoplasma, giardia, and cryptosporidium.

Dr. Rockwell provided an overview of the Medical Health Officer's responsibilities as they relate to drinking water. He indicated that the Medical Health Officer (MHO) is the Drinking Water Officer, and that a Regional Drinking Water Coordinator helps fulfill responsibilities related to drinking water. The delegated authorities of the MHO were outlined.

Dr. Rockwell provided information about drinking water quality. He indicated that drinking water quality has five dimensions: aesthetic (taste, look, smell), physical (PH, corrosivity, turbidity), microbiological, chemical and radiological. Dr. Rockwell indicated that requirements regarding drinking water quality are set by the *Drinking Water Protection Act and Regulation* or by exercise of discretion by an authorized officer.

The presenter indicated that section 6 of the Drinking Water Protection Act stipulates that water suppliers must provide water that is potable and meets all the requirements set by the regulations or by its operating permit. He specified that potable water means water that meets the standards prescribed by regulation and is safe to drink and fit for domestic purposes without further treatment. The prescribed standards for water quality were identified as those specified in Schedule A of the Act, and that this Schedule currently only establishes requirements related to fecal coliform bacteria, E. coli, and total coliform bacteria.

Dr. Rockwell specified that drinking water must be disinfected if it originates from surface water, or groundwater that, in the opinion of the drinking water officer, is at risk of containing pathogens.

Dr. Rockwell stated that the Drinking Water Officer uses discretion to:

- determine if additional requirements need to be included on the operating permit, and the water is safe to drink and fit for domestic purposes without further treatment;
- determine the process for reaching a reasoned, case specific decision; and
- the use of the Canadian Guidelines for Drinking Water.

Participants were provided an opportunity to ask Dr. Rockwell questions at the conclusion of his presentation. The following provides a record of the questions and answers generated regarding Dr. Rockwell's presentation:

### Question #1

A participant asked about the status of the purchase of land in the Nanaimo River watershed by the Greater Nanaimo Water Board.



Wayne Hansen, Superintendent, Greater Nanaimo Water District responded that the cost of purchasing the land in the Nanaimo River watershed makes it prohibitive.

#### Question #2

A participant asked where property owners could obtain information about the quality of water provided by shallow wells on private property.

Dr. Rockwell responded that the Vancouver Island Health Authority does not have data regarding the quality of well water on private property.

#### Question #3

A participant asked about the causes of 'beaver fever'.

Dr. Rockwell responded that 'beaver fever' is likely caused by beavers defecating in and near waterbodies, and that beavers are a reservoir for the disease.

#### Question #4

A participant asked how assistance can be obtained to address chemical contamination of drinking water sources.

Dr. Rockwell responded that the Drinking Water Protection Act establishes a process for identifying and designating drinking water protection plan areas. Dr. Rockwell noted that people are more likely to become sick from contamination of drinking water by microbiological contaminants as opposed to chemical contaminants.

#### Question #5

A participant asked if any studies have been done regarding people becoming ill from consuming water contaminated by chemicals.

Dr. Rockwell responded that the Provincial Health Officers report about drinking water protection contains information about such studies, and that studies indicate that human health is more likely to be negatively impacted by bacterial or viral contamination of water than chemical contamination.

## **Exercise: What are the Key Drinking Water Quality Challenges?**

(9:40–9:50)

Participants were invited to brainstorm in their small groups a list of the key drinking water challenges. Small group facilitators facilitated the discussion and recorded participant perspectives on flipcharts.

Several key themes emerged in participant feedback regarding key drinking water quality challenges. The key themes that emerged are:

- Reducing or eliminating any detrimental impacts on drinking water quality caused by activities (development, industrial uses, agriculture, forestry, etc.) in watersheds;
- The protection of groundwater resources in the absence of Provincial groundwater protection legislation and the implementation of the current rules concerning well construction, use and abandonment;

- Ensuring that good quality water is provided to residents who obtain their drinking water independently from an onsite well;
- The ability of small water systems to fulfill requirements related to personnel skill level, testing and infrastructure improvements;
- The lack of public awareness about drinking water quality issues and the limited availability to the public of information related to drinking water quality (i.e. water quality test results);
- Cost of implementing practices to improve drinking water quality (i.e. for watershed land acquisition, testing, infrastructure upgrades, addressing aesthetic issues) and the willingness of residents to pay.

Please see Appendix C for complete record of small group participant feedback received during this exercise.

## **Presentation: Provincial Perspective – Drinking Water Quality (9:50 -- 10:45)**

Barry Boettger, Drinking Water Officer, Ministry of Health, delivered a presentation about the provincial perspective regarding drinking water quality.

Mr. Boettger shared some drinking water facts. He noted that there are approximately 4000 documented operational water systems in BC (which doesn't include water systems illegally operating without permits, or properties served by an individual well), that BC has one of the highest reported incidences of intestinal illness in Canada (although BC might just have a better reporting system than other provinces), that there were 28 waterborne disease outbreaks between 1980 and 2004 in BC, and that there are currently approximately 390 boil water advisories in BC. Mr. Boettger noted that the majority of boil water advisories in BC are due to non-compliance with the requirements to disinfect surface water, failure to meet microbiological standards, chlorinator failure or high turbidity.

The presenter described the suspected contaminant sources for the waterborne disease outbreaks in BC. He indicated that beaver are a common cause of outbreaks because they defecate directly in water, whereas other animals defecate on land. Other sources of outbreaks include cougars, cats, other wildlife, cattle, humans, and water main breaks.

Mr. Boettger described the organisms responsible for waterborne disease outbreaks in BC. *Giardia* was responsible for the greatest proportion of outbreaks, followed by *campylobacter*, *cryptosporidium*, *salmonella*, *toxoplasma* and viruses. It was noted that there haven't been any human deaths directly attributable to waterborne disease in BC, and that there are a range of human illnesses that may result from consumption of contaminated water. Mr. Boettger indicated that most of the identified organisms can be effectively controlled with chlorination.

Mr. Boettger described the chemicals responsible for source contamination in BC. Turbidity was responsible for the greatest proportion of source contamination (in the 1000's), followed by algal toxins (3), petroleum (2), salt (1), arsenic (1, from natural sources). The number of contamination incidents caused by nitrates is unknown. Mr. Boettger indicated that there is less ability to track chemical contamination as often it takes a lifetime to determine the effects of contamination.

The presenter provided an overview of the Provincial government's legislative response to drinking water quality. Mr. Boettger indicated that the main legislating governing drinking water falls under the *Drinking Water Protection Act* passed in 2001. Prior to the establishment of that Act the Safe Drinking Water Regulation under the Health Act was the primary legislation.

Mr. Boettger noted that the Ministry of Health is the primary ministry responsible for drinking water because the Province views drinking water safety as a health issue. It was noted that in other provinces drinking water quality is administered by ministries of the environment.

The presentation outlined some of the key requirements for drinking water quality in the old Safe Drinking Water Regulation under the Health Act. Key requirements include construction approval, operating permits, minimum treatment levels, specified water quality standards, notification of water quality problems, emergency response plans, and the possibility of establishing additional conditions on operating permits.

Mr. Boettger indicated that the 2002 speech from the throne indicates the Province's perspectives on drinking water. One of the statements made in the speech was, "British Columbians' health will be better safeguarded under new legislation to strengthen drinking water and ground water protection. As well, my government will be allocating more resources to the monitoring of drinking water quality".

The presentation provided an update about drinking water legislation. It was noted that the Drinking Water Protection Act was passed in 2001, amended in 2002, brought into force in May of 2003, and that more refinement to the legislation is expected (i.e. to address harmonization with new groundwater legislation being developed by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, to update fee and ticketing components).

Mr. Boettger outlined some of the key requirements related to drinking water quality established in the Drinking Water Protection Regulation under the Drinking Water Protection Act. Key requirements include: construction approval, operating permits, minimum treatment levels, specified water quality standards, public notification of water quality problems, emergency response plans, optional conditions that may be placed on permits, option to require system assessments, option to require assessment response plans (cross connection control), and a requirement for certified operators.

Mr. Boettger provided an overview of the principles of the Drinking Water Protection Act. The principles outlined were:

- the safety of drinking water is a public health issue;
- source protection is a critical part of drinking water protection;
- providing safe drinking water requires an integrated approach;
- all water systems need to be thoroughly assessed to determine risks;
- proper treatment and water distribution system integrity are important to protect human health;
- tap water must meet acceptable safety standards and be monitored;
- small water systems require a flexible system with safeguards;
- safe drinking water should be affordable, with users paying appropriate costs.

Mr. Boettger provided an overview of the Province's Drinking Water Action Plan.

The presenter explained the roles and responsibilities of the various different provincial government ministries with respect to drinking water quality. The Ministry of Health is the lead ministry for drinking water and includes the key positions of the Provincial Health Officer (to ensure accountability of government and water suppliers) and the Drinking Water Officer (to recommend development of site specific drinking water plans and implement Drinking Water Action Plan). The Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection is the lead agency responsible for water source protection. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is responsible for providing leadership on environmental farm management. The Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management is responsible for information management, ensuring land use plans address drinking water issues, assisting other agencies in determining the necessity of protection plans, and a water quantity drought response. The Ministry of

Forests is responsible for managing forest and range activities to maintain water quality. The Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services is responsible for providing capital assistance to local governments, providing planning grants and liaising with municipalities, regional districts and improvement districts. All of the activities of the different ministries with responsibilities related to drinking water is coordinated through a committee of Assistant Deputy Ministers.

Mr. Boettger explained the different but complementary responsibilities of the Provincial Drinking Water Officer and the Regional Drinking Water Officers.

Participants were provided an opportunity to ask Barry Boettger questions at the conclusion of his presentation. The following provides a record of the questions and answers generated regarding Barry Boettger's presentation

#### **Question #1**

A participant asked if the Ministry of Health would pay for the costs associated with testing the quality of water in private wells.

Mr. Boettger responded that property owners are responsible for paying the costs associated with testing the quality of water in private wells, much like a property owner is responsible for paying the costs associated with maintaining their property.

#### **Question # 2**

A participant asked what property owners get for the payment of water license fees.

Mr. Boettger responded that property owners get access to a quantity of water for their payment of water license fees, and programs associated with the administration of water licenses.

#### **Question #3**

A participant asked if there is testing for heavy metals in the Nanaimo River watershed.

Wayne Hansen, Superintendent, Greater Nanaimo Water District, responded that extensive testing is conducted for heavy metals on a regular, monthly basis.

#### **Question #4**

A participant asked how the upcoming provincial legislation would impact the *Drinking Water Protection Act* given that it took two years to put the legislation in place.

Mr. Boettger responded that legislation development is generally a slow process, and that two years is not an unusual length of time to develop legislation.

#### **Question #5**

A participant asked why the provincial government hasn't encouraged the use of composting toilets through tax breaks.

Mr. Boettger responded that composting toilets are not widely accepted by the public.

#### Question #6

A participant asked if the province has enough money to implement the *Drinking Water Protection Act*.

Mr. Boettger responded that the provincial budget includes funds for a Provincial Drinking Water Officer, and that the Province has provided funds to local health authorities for additional staff including Regional Drinking Water Coordinators. The budget contains some additional dollars for programs associated with the *Act*.

#### Question #7

A participant stated that a foreign logging company should not own land in the Nanaimo River Watershed, and that the land should be expropriated.

### **Presentation: Drinking Water Quality – What are the Rules? (11:00 – 12:00)**

Colin Stewart, lawyer, Staples McDannold Stewart, delivered a presentation about the law as it pertains to drinking water quality.

Mr. Stewart began his presentation by describing what the law defines as potable water. He indicated that the legislation defines potable water as water provided by a domestic water system that meets prescribed standards, is safe to drink and fit for domestic purposes.

The presenter provided an overview about law as it pertains to the definition of water suppliers. It was noted that a water supplier is a person who is the owner of a water supply system, and that an owner includes a person responsible for ongoing operation or in charge of managing the operation.

Mr. Stewart provided an overview about law as it pertains to the definition of a water supply system. It was noted that a domestic water supply system is a system other than [1] a domestic water system that serves only one single-family residence and [2] equipment, works or facilities prescribed as excluded.

Mr. Stewart provided an overview about law as it pertains to the definition of a domestic water system. It was noted that a domestic water system is as a “system by which water is provided or offered for domestic purposes”.

The presentation provided an overview about the law as it pertains to the definition of domestic purposes. He noted that domestic purposes means the use of water for [1] human consumption, food preparation or sanitation; [2] household purposes not covered by [1] and [3] other prescribed purposes.

Mr. Stewart provided an overview about the different types of water suppliers. The different types of water suppliers include: local governments (municipalities, regional districts, Arrowsmith Water System Joint Venture), greater boards (i.e. Greater Nanaimo Water District), improvement districts, water utilities, water user communities, and other systems.

The presenter described the legal responsibilities of water suppliers. He noted that suppliers must supply potable water and meet any additional requirements established by regulation or operating permit.

Mr. Stewart stated that the Drinking Water Protection Regulation prescribes standards for fecal coliform bacteria and e.coli, and that the water must be “safe to drink for domestic purposes”. Mr. Stewart

indicated that the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality contain many other guidelines pertaining to water quality that are not specifically applicable through regulation in BC.

The presenter indicated that the Drinking Water Protection Act requires water suppliers to obtain separate permits to construct and operate works.

Mr. Stewart stated that the Drinking Water Protection Act requires water suppliers to monitor water quality and report threats to water quality to the Drinking Water Officer.

Mr. Stewart indicated that other legislation, such as the Health Act, Water Act, Water Utility Act and Utilities Commission Act, applies to drinking water.

Mr. Stewart indicated that common law provision related to riparian rights, nuisance and negligence, also apply to drinking water.

The presenter indicated that the Drinking Water Officer may issue orders if there is a drinking water health hazard. Drinking water health hazards were defined as "a condition or thing in relation to drinking water that does or is likely to endanger public health or prevent or hinder the prevention or suppression of disease, a prescribed condition or thing, or a prescribed condition or thing that fails to meet a prescribed standard". Mr. Stewart indicated that law prohibits actions that will result or are likely to result in drinking water health hazards.

Mr. Stewart identified other important legislated prohibitions and controls, including the Waste Management Act, the Fisheries Act, the Health Act, and the Streamside Protection Regulation.

Mr. Stewart indicated that the protection of watersheds can be increased through ownership.

The presentation provided an overview of the different tools available to municipalities and regional districts that could be used to protect drinking water. It was noted that municipalities could protect drinking water through zoning, development permit areas, drainage control works requirements, regulations for the protection of the natural environment and tree cutting prohibitions. It was noted that regional districts could protect drinking water through the same land use control powers as municipalities, with the exception of the abilities to regulate for the protection of the natural environment and prohibit tree cutting.

Mr. Stewart described some of the constraints to local government's abilities to protect drinking water. Constraints include structural limits on jurisdiction and statutory overrides by the Province. It was noted that local government cannot use zoning to freeze all use of land, and local governments may not be able to refuse permits for building and development. It was noted that some uses, such as farming, forestry, mining and Crown land/Crown agent use, also have special protection from local government bylaws.

Participants were provided an opportunity to ask Colin Stewart questions at the conclusion of his presentation. The following provides a record of the questions and answers generated regarding Mr. Stewart's presentation.

#### Question #1

A participant asked if regulations could be developed to protect wetlands.

Colin Stewart responded that there is a possibility that wetlands could be protected under the *Drinking Water Protection Act* where a drinking water protection plan is mandated. Mr. Stewart noted that the

wetlands may be protected through official community plan land use designations and associated policy, and through zoning. It was noted that zoning cannot be used to freeze development of property, and that local government's authorities are very limited where it concerns the reduction or elimination of existing lawful uses of property.

#### **Question #2**

A participant asked if a property owner could send a registered letter to an upstream property owner to inform them that they believe the upstream property owner's septic system is contaminating a well on a downstream property. The participant cited an example where this type of notification procedure is used to provide information about dangerous trees.

Colin Stewart responded that the property owner could send such a letter, but cautioned that it would be more difficult to determine if the pollution of a downstream property well was a result of a septic system on an upstream property. In the case of dangerous tree it is much easier to assess the state of a tree and its potential to impact an adjacent property.

#### **Question #3**

A participant asked how local government could obtain more authority and power to protect watersheds.

Colin Stewart responded that local government could lobby the provincial government to request additional authority and power to protect watersheds.

#### **Question #4**

A participant asked if water purveyors are responsible for activities in the watershed area.

Colin Stewart responded that a water purveyor is responsible for activities in the watershed area only in so far as the activities impact water at the intake.

#### **Question #5**

A participant asked if all citizens have a right to clean drinking water.

Colin Stewart responded that drinking water provided to citizens should be clean, and that the Drinking Water Protection Act requires drinking water providers to provide potable drinking water. Mr. Stewart noted that although the bill of rights does not specifically identify a right of citizens to clean drinking water, it is an underlying theme to the legislation.

#### **Question #6**

A participant asked for a definition of riparian rights.

Colin Stewart responded that riparian rights are the rights of owners along bodies of water. Mr. Stewart noted that downstream property owners have a right to receive water that has not been negatively impacted by upstream uses.

#### **Question #7**

A participant asked if a drinking water protection plan prepared pursuant to the Drinking Water Protection Act could 'trump' agriculture and forestry uses.

Colin Stewart responded that such plans could result in the attachment of conditions to permits, to be implemented by water suppliers.

#### **Question #8**

A participant asked if a potential problem exists given that the *Drinking Water Protection Act* requires protection source to tap while local government only has jurisdiction to property lines (i.e. not from the property line to the tap).

Colin Stewart responded that this is a potential legal issue.

#### **Question #9**

A participant asked if Staples McDannold Stewart advises the provincial government.

Colin Stewart responded that Staples McDannold Stewart does not act for the provincial government in litigation, and that the provincial government occasionally consults it.

#### **Question #10**

A participant asked if clear, easy to understand information is available about drinking water protection.

Colin Stewart responded that the law regarding drinking water is complex, and that legislation tends to become more complex as time passes given the increasing complexity of the issues it must address.

### **Presentation: Drinking Water Quality Issues in the Region (12:30 – 1:15)**

Murray Sexton, Public Health Engineer, Vancouver Island Health Authority, delivered a presentation about the drinking water quality issues in the region. Mr. Sexton also introduced Robin Gear, Regional Drinking Water Coordinator, Vancouver Island Health Authority.

Mr. Sexton indicated that there are approximately 250 water systems in the Regional District of Nanaimo, and approximately 700 individual wells in the District 69 portion of the RDN.

The presenter identified the four sources of drinking water in the region: [1] surface waters (including lakes, rivers, streams, springs, shallow wells); [2] groundwater; [3] sea water; and [4] rain water catchment systems.

Mr. Sexton described the main drinking water quality concerns regarding drinking water from surface water sources. The main concerns include bacteria (one incidence in the RDN during the last two years related to a cheese making operation), viruses, protozoan, algal blooms (not in the RDN), turbidity, and organics (a concern in the Quennell Lake and Whiskey Creek areas).



Mr. Sexton described the main drinking water quality concerns regarding drinking water that comes from ground water sources. The main concerns are: bacteria, viruses, turbidity, organics, and chemicals (arsenic, fluoride, nitrogen [ammonia, nitrite, nitrate]). (Flouride has been an issue in Yellowpoint and Gabriola Island. Nitrogen has been an issue on Nanoose Hill).

The presenter noted that the aesthetics of drinking water from groundwater is also a concern to some people. Aesthetic concerns include iron, manganese, sodium, hardness, and dissolved gases (methane, hydrogen sulphide). Mr. Sexton described the components of a typical brand of bottled water and indicated that it would not meet the aesthetic criteria of the Canadian Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality.

Mr. Sexton stressed the importance of disinfecting surface water used for drinking purposes, and indicated that surface water sources are always open to direct contamination from the feces of humans, wildlife, pets and livestock.

Mr. Sexton indicated that drinking water from a groundwater source should be disinfected if there is a risk of contamination. He noted that situations of risk typically exist in shallow wells, wells near surface water supplies, and where there is a history of positive results. Mr. Sexton recommended that wells be disinfected (shock chlorinated) on a regular basis.

Participants were provided an opportunity to ask Murray Sexton questions at the conclusion of his presentation. The following provides a record of the questions and answers generated regarding Mr. Sexton's presentation.

#### Question #1

A participant asked if the Vancouver Island Health Authority monitors the amount of arsenic and chloride in surface water in areas that are being logged such as the Nanaimo River watershed.

Mr. Sexton responded that the Greater Nanaimo Water Board monitors water coming from the Nanaimo River watershed and submits the monitoring results to the Vancouver Island Health Authority. Mr. Sexton noted that the test results submitted to date are fine.

#### Question #2

A participant asked about urea, the fertilizer being applied by Weyerhaeuser to land it owns in the Nanaimo River watershed.

Mr. Sexton responded that urea is different than the urea formaldehyde that is banned in house construction, that Weyerhaeuser does not need permission from the Greater Nanaimo Water Board or the Vancouver Island Health Authority to apply urea fertilizer to land it owns, and that the amount to be applied shouldn't harm drinking water.

#### Question #3

A participant asked about the differences between ground and surface water.

Mr. Sexton responded that ground and surface water are connected together in the hydrological cycle, and that there are more minerals in groundwater.

#### **Question #4**

A participant asked if there is a danger that 'superbugs' will be created as a result of 'shocking' wells with chlorine.

Mr. Sexton indicated that a microbiologist might have the answer to that question.

#### **Question #5**

A participant stated that public ownership of watershed lands is the only viable option for protecting drinking water sources.

Mr. Sexton responded that drinking water from publicly owned watershed lands is still a possibility, citing that not all activities can be banned from watersheds (e.g. wildlife habitat).

#### **Question #6**

A participant asked why the Provincial laws enable farming and forestry uses to contaminate drinking water.

MLA Judith Reid responded that substantial work has been undertaken to improve the compatibility between forestry, mining, and agricultural uses with other uses such as drinking water protection. Ms. Reid noted that she had toured the Nanaimo River watershed and is impressed with its management.

#### **Question #7**

A participant asked how many residents would be willing to financially contribute towards the purchase of land in their watersheds.

An unknown number of participants raised their hands to indicate their support for this.

#### **Question #8**

A participant asked about what the Greater Nanaimo Water Board is doing to protect its watershed.

Wayne Hansen, Superintendent, Greater Nanaimo Water Board, responded that the Board has established a good rapport with Weyerhaeuser as a preventive measure, that the Board has online meters to monitor turbidity, and that the two parties share information about water quality.

### **Exercise: Who Provides Your Drinking Water? (1:15 – 1:25)**

Participants were asked to share with their small group information regarding who provides their drinking water. Small group facilitators facilitated the discussion and recorded participant information on flipcharts.

The following table identifies the proportion of Workshop participants provide drinking water by each type of drinking water provider:

Type of Drinking Water Provider	Participants That Obtain Drinking Water From Specified Type of Drinking Water Provider (%)
Municipality (i.e. City of Parksville, Town of Qualicum Beach, Regional District of Nanaimo) or Greater Board (i.e. Greater Nanaimo Water Board)	57
Improvement District	8
Water Utility	6
Water User Community	2
Other System (i.e. mobile home park, strata, private commercial business, etc.)	4
Individual onsite well	23

## Presentation: Regional District of Nanaimo Role – Drinking Water Quality (1:25 – 2:15)

Neil Connelly (General Manager, Community Services), Bob Lapham (General Manager, Development Services) and John Finnie (General Manager, Environmental Services) co-delivered a presentation about the Regional District of Nanaimo's present role and responsibilities as they relate to drinking water quality. The presentation covered the following four aspects of RDN responsibilities related to drinking water quality: the Regional Growth Strategy, official community plans, development approvals, and water service delivery.

### *Regional Growth Strategy:*

Neil Connelly provided an overview of the Regional Growth Strategy and its relevance to drinking water quality. It was noted that the RDN is responsible for the development of the Regional Growth Strategy for the region.

The Regional Growth Strategy was described as a comprehensive statement of the future of the region that includes the social, economic and environmental objectives of the Board in relation to the Regional District, and as an agreement between the RDN and member municipalities regarding actions to be taken to achieve the common vision for the region. It was noted that the Regional Growth Strategy influences long range plans and operational activities of the RDN and member municipalities; that it provides a framework to guide the activities of all levels of government, the public, the private sector and non-governmental organizations; and that it is applicable to all RDN member municipalities and electoral areas A, and C through H.

Mr. Connelly described the parts of the Regional Growth Strategy most directly related to drinking water quality. It was noted that the Regional Growth Strategy is a broad land use strategy that provides for focused development, that environmental protection is a key Strategy goal, and that the Strategy includes two policies related to drinking water quality. The policies include 4E, which states, "The RDN and member municipalities agree to protect the supply and quality of surface water sources ...through participation in integrated stormwater management projects," and 4F, which states, "The RDN and member municipalities agree to take measures to identify and protect the groundwater resources in the region."

### *Official Community Plans*

Mr. Lapham indicated that the Regional District is responsible for the preparation of official community plans for the unincorporated electoral areas of the region (including electoral areas A, C through H), and that member municipalities are responsible for the preparation of official community plans for land and water within their boundaries. Official community plans were described as statements of objectives and policies to guide decisions on planning and land use management. It was noted that in the RDN official community plans work towards the Regional Growth Strategy purpose and goals.

Mr. Lapham described the parts of RDN official community plans of most relevance to drinking water quality. It was noted that environmental protection is a goal in all RDN official community plans. RDN official community plans include three key water quality objectives: [1] avoid resource use conflicts through land use designations; [2] designate development permit areas to limit the impacts of development near waterbodies and to protect groundwater; and [3] establish requirements for hydrogeological impact assessments for proposed developments. As with the Regional Growth Strategy, official community plans also distinguish areas for development from areas to protect for rural and resource uses.

### *Development Approvals*

Mr. Lapham described the work the Regional District undertakes that is related to drinking water quality as a part of its development approval function. It was noted that the Regional District is responsible for decisions about applications to develop land in Electoral Areas A and C through H, including amendments to zoning and official community plans, development permits and development variance permits. The RDN provides advice to the Ministry of Transportation regarding subdivision applications, with the Ministry being responsible for subdivision application decisions. It was noted that the RDN uses regulations, where in place, to protect water quality through zoning, subdivision and development permit consideration, and that generally, restrictions on land use and parcel size through zoning limit development impacts. The RDN is also responsible for the development of standards for proof of potable water for water systems defined by the RDN as 'community water systems', it may develop hydrological standards, and it can levy development cost charges in certain areas for works and improvements. Mr. Lapham concluded by noting that many other parties are involved in development approvals, including works in stream, road locations, septic fields, improvement districts/water utilities/water user communities/other systems, stormwater, mining, agriculture, and forestry.

### *Water Service Delivery*

John Finnie provided an overview of the RDN's water service delivery role. He noted that the RDN provides drinking water to thirteen local water service areas in unincorporated electoral areas pursuant to the Local Government Act. The RDN local water service areas include approximately 3500 connections and serve approximately 8500 people.

Mr. Finnie indicated that each of the local water service areas administered by the RDN is funded entirely by the property owners in the service area, and is not funded by taxes collected elsewhere in the region. RDN water service area operators are certified by the Environmental Operators Certification Program, and administered by a staff that includes a manager and technologist.

Mr. Finnie described the components of the RDN water service areas. It was noted that all the RDN systems are groundwater supplied, that all systems include a well, a pump and a distribution system, that most systems include a reservoir and disinfection, and that all service connections are metered.

Mr. Finnie described the safety precautions that the RDN takes in its water service areas. It was noted that reservoirs and wells are fenced and secured, the RDN is moving towards securing and increasing wellhead protection areas around wells, the RDN is acquiring wellhead properties where possible, regular inspections are conducted, required monitoring is supplemented with additional sampling and analyses, and water quality samples are examined by a private certified lab and the RDN lab.

Mr. Finnie provided information about the quality of water provided in the RDN local water service areas. It was noted that the water meets or exceeds the *BC Drinking Water Protection Act* quality standards, and all of the health criteria of the *Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality*. Mr. Finnie noted that there have been no boil water advisories in RDN operated water service areas.

Mr. Finnie indicated that the Regional District of Nanaimo is not responsible for the drinking water provided by other drinking water providers such as improvement districts, water utilities, water user communities, other systems, municipalities and properties served by private well.

Mr. Finnie provided information about the Arrowsmith Bulk Water Supply Area. It was noted that the Arrowsmith Bulk Water Supply Area is a joint venture of the RDN, the City of Parksville, and the Town of Qualicum Beach for the purpose of providing a supplemental, long term water supply. Water is supplied by the Englishman River and stored in Arrowsmith Lake. The Nanoose Bay and French Creek portions of the electoral areas participate in the function.

Mr. Finnie stated that the RDN does not have a regional function for drinking water protection, and that each water provider is responsible for management of their own water quality.

Participants were provided an opportunity to ask Neil Connelly, Bob Lapham and John Finnie questions at the conclusion of his presentation. The following provides a record of the questions and answers generated regarding their presentation.

#### **Question #1**

A participant asked if there are any regulations that govern the quality of bottled water.

Barry Boettger responded that the quality of bottled drinking water is federally regulated as a packaged food product.

#### **Question #2**

A participant asked if different (i.e. lower) standards could be established for water that is not used for human consumption (i.e. water that is used in washing machines, toilets, showers, gardening).

John Finnie responded it is not impossible to establish different standards for water that is not used for human consumption. It was noted this would necessitate two or more separate infrastructure systems for supplying the water, plumbing the water, collecting the water and disposing it. The cost of developing these separate infrastructure systems is seen as a deterrent.

#### **Question #3**

A participant asked if the RDN would be willing to establish a regional drinking water protection function if residents were willing to pay for it.

Bob Lapham responded that the RDN Board could establish a regional drinking water protection function. It was noted that establishment of a new function, such as the one suggested, would require the adoption of a new service area bylaw for the service, and that consent of the electors is one of the requirements for the adoption of such a bylaw.

#### **Question #4**

A participant asked for a definition of bulk water.

John Finnie responded that bulk water is a large water supply for multiple parties.

#### **Question #5**

A participant made a statement about a conversation with MLA Judith Reid about the sustainability of forestry.

#### **Question #6**

A participant asked if federal laws constrain local government's ability to protect drinking water in the same way that some provincial laws (such as laws pertaining to agriculture, forestry, and mining) constrain local government's ability to protect drinking water.

Judith Reid, MLA, responded that mining, agriculture and forestry are areas of provincial responsibility, and that federal laws pertaining to the environment would take precedence.

#### **Question #7**

A participant asked if the RDN monitors groundwater to determine if it is being used at sustainable levels.

John Finnie responded that the RDN monitors well levels, and that it encourages modest water use of water in its water service areas through a water conservation based rate structure for water usage. It was noted that there appears to be a need for more education and awareness about water usage.

### **Exercise: What Should be Done to Address Drinking Water Quality Issues? (2:15 – 3:15)**

Participants were invited to share with the members of their small groups their ideas regarding what should be done to address drinking water quality issues.

Small group facilitators facilitated these discussions and recorded participant comments on flip chart sheets.

A record of all of the ideas suggested at each table is provided in Appendix D.

## **Exercise/Presentation: Top Priority Actions to Address Drinking Water Quality (3:15 – 3:45)**

One representative from each of the twelve small groups presented the group's recommendations regarding the top three or five actions that should be taken to address drinking water quality.

Several key themes emerged in participant feedback regarding the highest priority actions that should be taken to address drinking water quality. The key themes regarding the highest priority actions that emerged are:

- **Obtain better information about drinking water**– Workshop participants would like more data to be readily available to the public and decision makers about: water quality monitoring test results (for all types of water providers, including local government, improvement districts, water user communities, water utilities, private wells and other systems), the quantity of water available, aquifer locations and characteristics, the number and location of wells, the performance of wells, best management practices for activities that might detrimentally impact drinking water quality,
- **Educate and raise public awareness about drinking water issues** - Workshop participants would like the public to become more aware and educated about drinking water issues, including methods of conserving water, methods of waste disposal that minimize or eliminate negative impacts on water quality, potential ways that drinking water quality can be jeopardized, and
- **Protect watersheds** - Workshop participants would like steps taken to improve the protection of land in water source areas. Suggested steps include: acquiring land in watersheds through purchase, negation or expropriation, enacting more rigorous land use and development regulations, eliminating agricultural and forestry practices in watersheds (such as waste disposal, clear cutting, pesticide application, and fertilizer application) that might negatively impact drinking water, and developing a watershed management strategy in cooperation with all of the jurisdictions with related responsibilities.

For a complete record of each table's recommendations please see Appendix E.

## **Presentation: Next Steps (3:45 – 4:00)**

Director Joe Stanhope, Chair of the Regional District of Nanaimo Board, thanked attendees for participating in the Drinking Water Quality Workshop.

Director Stanhope described what would happen after the completion of the Workshop. He indicated that a Workshop Report would be prepared to document the proceedings of the Workshop. It was noted that the Workshop Report is anticipated to be considered by the RDN's Committee of the Whole at its June 2004 meeting, and that the Workshop Report will be made available to the public at the RDN offices and on the RDN web site.

Director Stanhope reminded participants that the Drinking Water Quality Discussion Paper provides an additional or optional opportunity for residents to provide feedback regarding actions that should be taken to address drinking water quality.

Director Stanhope indicated that the Workshop Report and feedback received in response to the Discussion Paper would be considered in the development of an 'action plan' that outlines actions to be taken in regard to drinking water quality.

# CONCLUSION

The Drinking Water Quality Workshop was a successful event that generated a high degree of resident enthusiasm and support for addressing drinking water quality issues.

The Workshop was designed to raise public awareness about drinking water quality and to obtain public feedback regarding actions that should be taken to protect drinking water quality.

Participant evaluation form feedback submitted by 52 of the 91 participants indicates that the objectives of the Workshop were achieved.

Participant evaluation form feedback indicates that the Workshop successfully raised public awareness about drinking water quality matters, as outlined in the table below:

Proportion of Participants that Submitted Evaluation Forms who Agreed or Strongly Agreed that the Workshop Raised Their Awareness....	
...about the characteristics of good quality drinking water	85%
... about the Provincial government's perspectives about drinking water quality	79 %
...about the law as it pertains to drinking water quality	84 %
...about drinking water quality issues in the region	81 %
...about Regional District of Nanaimo activities as they relate to drinking water,	87%

With regard to providing an opportunity for residents to share their perspectives about what actions should be taken to address drinking water quality issues in the region, 85 % of the participants that submitted evaluation forms strongly agreed or agreed that the Workshop provided such an opportunity.

The most liked aspects of the Workshop include the presentations, logistics (organization, provision of hand-outs, adherence to schedule, table rotations), and opportunity to interact with other participants. The most disliked aspect of the Workshop was the amount of time used by participants to comment about and question Weyerhaeuser's application of fertilizer to land it owns in the Nanaimo River watershed.

The Drinking Water Quality Workshop is one of the key 'deliverables' of the Drinking Water Workshop Initiative. Participant perspectives received at the Workshop will be used as a source of information in the development of an action plan that identifies actions to be taken in regard to drinking water quality.





# APPENDICES



## **APPENDIX A: SPEAKER BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

### **Dr. Fred Rockwell**

Dr. Fred Rockwell is the Medical Health Officer for the Central Island area of the Vancouver Island Health Authority. After receiving a Bachelor of Science from Sir George Williams University in Montreal, he spent two years with CUSO teaching high school in Ghana. On return to Canada, he entered Queen's University to obtain his medical degree and subsequently interned in Calgary. After five years of general practice, Dr. Rockwell returned to the University of Calgary to pursue specialty training in Public Health. His first posting was as Director and Medical Officer of Health for the Atlantic Health Unit in Halifax, starting in 1991. In 1994, he moved to his current position in Nanaimo.

### **Barry Boettger**

Barry Boettger is the Provincial drinking water officer in which capacity he provides assistance to the Provincial health officer in carrying out his responsibilities under the Drinking Water Protection Act. Barry was appointed to this position on April 19 of this year. Prior to this appointment Barry worked within the Ministry of Health's Drinking Water Program for eleven years, first as the water quality consultant, then the Project Manager for the Drinking Water Program. For the past two years Barry has been involved in developing the Drinking Water Protection Act and regulation and will now take on the responsibilities for developing public reporting procedures under the Act as well as helping to develop the oversight and accountability framework for the Drinking Water Program across the province.

### **Colin Stewart**

Colin Stewart is a graduate of the University of Victoria in both Arts (1981) and Law (1986). Colin Stewart was called to the bar in 1987 and is a partner in the Firm Staples McDannold Stewart located in Victoria, B.C. which acts for local government, BC Assessment and Health Regions. Mr. Stewart practices exclusively in the field of Local Government Law. He has lectured at Continuing Legal Education courses on Municipal Law, was involved in the preparation of a portion of the Real Estate Development Manual and has been an instructor for the Local Government Law Course through the Department of Public Administration at the University of Victoria and is a frequent lecturer for the local government administration and law programmes of Capilano College. He has also served as Chairman of the Municipal Law Section of the B.C. Branch of the Canadian Bar Association.

## **Murray Sexton**

Mr. Sexton is the Vancouver Island Health Authority Public Health Engineer. As a Public Health Engineer, his responsibilities include inspection of waterworks, responding to waterborne disease outbreaks and issuing construction permits for water treatment plants, reservoirs, disinfection systems and watermain replacements and extensions. He also issues construction permits for public and commercial swimming pools and provides advice to health inspectors for on-site sewage disposal systems. Murray has been with the health authority since 1997. He provides public health engineering services for the entire Vancouver Island.

He has a degree in Civil Engineering from the University of British Columbia and spent three years in post graduate studies in the Environmental Engineering Department at UBC. He is a member of the Association of Professional Engineers of BC, the American Water Works Association, the BC Water and Wastewater Association and the Water Environment Federation.

## **Neil Connelly, Bob Lapham and John Finnie**

Neil Connelly, Bob Lapham and John Finnie are all General Managers for the Regional District of Nanaimo. Neil is the General Manger of Community Services. He is responsible for parks, recreation, transit, Handydart and regional growth management services. Bob is the General Manager of Development Services. He is responsible for community planning, building inspection, bylaw enforcement and emergency planning services. John is the General Manager of Environmental Services. He is responsible for liquid and solid waste management, and utilities (such as RDN water service areas and streetlighting).

## APPENDIX B: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Last Name	First Name	Municipality or Electoral Area
Abbey	Norman	Nanaimo
Allan	Shane	Nanaimo
Baldry	Ron W.	H
Beck	Laura	Nanaimo
Bennett	Sharon	C
Bibby	Peter	E
Bibby	Pauline (Director, RDN)	E
Biggemann	Lou (Director, RDN)	F
Booth	Brian	Nanaimo
Breen	Coralie	B
Briere	Janette	Nanaimo
Brix	Arnie	Parksville
Brunie	Brunie	Nanaimo
Caille	Gerry	H
Cake	Leon	Nanaimo
Campbell	Mary Ellen	Qualicum Beach
Chase	Bonnie	Nanaimo
Christensen	Frank	Qualicum Beach
Christensen	Gerda	Qualicum Beach
Collins	Betty	G
Coombe	David	Nanaimo
Crayston	Susan (Councillor)	Lantzville
Creber	Creber	Nanaimo
Davidson	Allan	Nanaimo
Du Jong	Adrian	Nanaimo
Dempsey	Brian (Councillor)	Lantzville
Erkiletian	Jim	Nanaimo
Feduk	Mike	Nanaimo
Fleming-Smith	Bruce	Qualicum Beach
Galick	Brian	F
Giles	Roger	Nanaimo
Gleeson	Tom	Nanaimo
Goldenblatt	Ilan	Nanaimo
Goldsberry	N. Sunshine	
Good	Chris	
Gourlay	Jock	A
Courlay	Shelagh	A
Graham	Judith	B
Griffey	Warren (Councillor)	Lantzville
Hamilton	Elaine (Director, RDN)	C
Hansen	Wayne	Nanaimo
Hawker	Jeff	Nanaimo
Hawkes	Lawrence	F
Heikkila	Rick	Nanaimo
Hicks	Hermine	Nanaimo
Hieb	Amber	Nanaimo
Hilborn	Eva	Qualicum Beach
Hotson	Susan	Parksville

Last Name	First Name	Municipality or Electoral Area
Humphrey	Robin	C
Jessen	Michael	G
Johnston	Barry (Councillor)	Parksville
Jones	Bill	Nanaimo
Joubert	Kenneth	A
Kallies-Wiebe	Brenda	H
Knowles	Patricia	A
Kreiberg	Henrik (Director, RDN)	A
Lambert	Mike	Nanaimo
Law	Bruce	C
Leeb	Harold	Nanaimo
Leeb	Joy	Nanaimo
Lefebvre	Mark (Councillor)	Parksville
Longmuir	Randy (Mayor)	Parksville
Luckman	Gil	Nanaimo
Luckman	Janet	Nanaimo
Lundine	Gordon	H
Lyons	Bill	H
Lyons	Ellen	H
Manly	Paul	Nanaimo
McArthur	Tom	E
McBride	Lorne	H
McGregor	Tom	Parksville
Nathan	Jason	Nanaimo
Northwood	Roger	Nanaimo
O'Rourke	Gary	Parksville
Patterson	Terry	A
Redden	Ian	A
Reid	Judith (MLA)	A
Robinson	Robin	G
Robinson	Sandy	G
Rodway	Brad	Parksville
Roi	Larrie	F
Rowe	Andrew	Nanaimo
Sears	Tim	A
Stuart	Chris	Nanaimo
Trumper	Gillian (MLA)	Port Alberni
Tull	Shelley	A
Shawn	Acton	F
Wicks	Trevor	F
Wright	David	Nanaimo
Young	Maureen	C
Young	Randy	B

# APPENDIX C: KEY DRINKING WATER QUALITY CHALLENGES

**Table A** (Dennis Trudeau, Small Group Facilitator)

- Industrial activity
- Development in watersheds
  - Forestry activities
- Control of watershed lands
- Water testing (individual wells)
  - Fluorides
- Protection of the source
- Protection of water source affected by private land

**Table B** (Al Stanley, Small Group Facilitator)

- Surface water
  - Public perception on protection
- Ground – audits?
- High fluorides -- Gabriola
- Agriculture run-off – Gabriola
- Restrict access to watersheds
- Small purveyors lack resources for testing / improvements
- Ground water – no legislation to protect
- Aging infrastructure
- Well drilling reporting requirements too low
- Ground water quality assurance - individual wells

**Table C** (Director Dave Bartram, Small Group Facilitator)

- Sterilization
- Looking at UV rather than chlorination
- Filtration
- Separation of solids and bacteria
- Safety in disposal of contaminants
- Well water and other source testing
- Small water purveyors now must do own testing and trained person
- Disclosure of quality problems to all

**Table D** (John Finnie, Small Group Facilitator)

- Clear understanding of effects of water quality “contaminants” on health – part. w.r.t. chemical constituents



- Multiple sources and water providers (fragmentation)
- Preserving integrity of aquifers
- More thorough supply monitoring and interpretation of results

### **Table E** (Kecva Kehler & Carey McIver, Small Group Facilitators)

- Individual wells not covered by DWPA - concern re lack of knowledge for individuals
- Lack of testing and controls. Where do you find results? What are we missing in tests?
- Public access to results - website records over time
- Points in time to enable monitoring of quality
- No well protection / aquifer penetration protection
- Land use affects quality
- Process to abandon wells
- Subdivision and potable / qualified water – must supply qualified water to new owners. Aesthetic vs health.
- Requirements of Schedule A
- Does quantity affect health?
- More information about chronic health ailments.

### **Table F** (Bob Lapham, Small Group Facilitator)

- Stop over development
- Focus more on quality than cost
- Look at the whole picture
- Increase awareness
- What are the costs of not protecting watersheds?
- Directing resources” where they do the most improvements to systems

### **Table G** (Tom Osborne, Small Group Facilitator)

- Protected water areas
- Effective testing - timely
- Education - jurisdiction coordinator
- Adjacent land use
- Discretion vs level of risk

### **Table H** (Neil Connelly, Small Group Facilitator)

- Identify drinking water supply areas DWSA
- Difficulties in defining
- Safe water at a reasonable supply
- Need to protect drinking water supply areas
- Identify potential contamination risks
- Land use practices

### **Table I** (Mike Donnelly, Small Group Facilitator)

- Protected watersheds issues (control, uses, new sources, regulation structure, need for protecting watersheds)
- Individual well issues (contamination, cross connection, regulatory structure)

### **Table J** (Christina Thomas, Small Group Facilitator)

- Health inspector needs to be better informed
- Person responsible for monitoring water quality needs to be fully qualified.
- Cost -
  - of addressing aesthetic issues
  - of purifying ground water
  - are people willing to pay?
- Lack of control over mining, forestry, agriculture
- Separate drinking water from water used for other purposes so \$\$ can be spent just on protecting drinking water
- Poor management of water sources and recharging water supply

### **Table K** (Deb Churko, Small Group Facilitator)

- Education and taking responsibility for own actions.
- Residents unsure of greater benefit of using chlorination.
- Responsible resource development.
- Limit contaminant input to drinking waters and limit treatment used.
- Sufficient treatment of biological contaminants (i.e. giardia)
- Maintaining distribution systems (i.e. finances)
- Political will.

### **Table L** (Blaine Russell, Small Group Facilitator)

- Lack of understanding of natural processes, i.e. immunity, resistance to organisms
- Lack of community control on surrounding watershed
- Challenges in lack of testing for chemical
- Watershed protection
- Encroaching development
- Adjacent industrial activity
- Infrastructure
- Funding / priorities

# APPENDIX D: IDEAS REGARDING WHAT SHOULD BE DONE TO ADDRESS DRINKING WATER QUALITY

**Table A** (Dennis Trudeau, Small Group Facilitator)

- Limit growth until quality water available (AWS)
- Planned infrastructure upgrades
- Information package (how to) on creating water system
- Watershed control protection
  - Public protection
- Effective timely water monitoring (high standard)
- Septic field maintenance
- More record keeping on P & H
- More information on water quality on the web
- Information re water quality testing results
- Subsidized pump outs
- No logging in watersheds
- Sustainable lifestyles
- Assess waste water systems and how they impact water sources
- H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> should be an approved method for shocking wells

**Table B** (Al Stanley, Small Group Facilitator)

- More power to local government (water source control)
- Higher well data standards
- Aquifer mapping
- Web posting of all data including historical show trends
- Education of watershed dwellers – especially Englishman River
- General education
- No cutting trees in riparian
- Riparian protection / enhancement (min. 50 metre setbacks)
- Private land logging riparian restrictions
- ALR and FLR to be subject to riparian protection measure, e.g. 50 metresetback / 30 metre minimum

**Table C** (Director Dave Bartram, Small Group Facilitator)

- Water quality readings for each area on the net
- Testing function in RDN
- Establish drinking water protection function in RDN to protect quality with regulations / bylaws consequences for non-compliance
- RDN to bring in water restrictions sooner
- More information on test results to taxpayers
- Facilitate water testing of wells (private) based on location and accessibility to RDN residents

- Well logs (establish process) of mandatory registration
- Consider variable solutions to water protection based on location
- Maintain a sustainable water supply through conservation and alternate water supply methods
- Education of children -- renewable resource unit
- Accountability / responsibility
- RDN as water purveyor impact on surrounding communities
- Need to work with other jurisdictions

### **Table D (John Finnie, Small Group Facilitator)**

- Preserve and/or restore the natural environment around or that might implicate watersheds and water supply areas
- Control access to and use of natural environment around or that might implicate watersheds and water supply areas
- Plan for an eventual level of water treatment
- Education and awareness (water conservation, waste disposal, etc.) (and non-point pollution sources)\*\*
- More aggressive water user rates
- Education and certification of water purveyor managers and operators
- More controls on new development for protection of water source / supply areas
- Local governments need more authority to control land use activities in their watershed areas.
- Promote / support stewardship groups and educational initiatives
- Watershed and well head protection initiatives.
- Legislation to require industrial water users to locate their water intakes D/S of their discharges

### **Table E (Keeva Kehler & Carey McIver, Small Group Facilitators)**

- Watershed protection from contaminants, i.e. logging, application of fertilizers
- Identify potential risks (e.g. Auto wreckers)
- Regional water protection function
- Expansion of RDN water systems
- Information to assist with implementing water utilities and water user communities
- Small community package treatment systems
- Establishing water co-ops
- Public education
- Improved monitoring

### **Table F (Bob Lapham, Small Group Facilitator)**

- Try to acquire watersheds (discussion / negotiation / expropriation)
- Further regulate watersheds (apply precautionary principle)
- Require industry to put outflow above (upstream) from intake
- Standard of discharge should equal standard of intake
- Improve communication level of trust, liaison
- Improve testing standards
- Better coordination of water quality management, include funding education
- Get more public information out (all media)

- Report more regularly at Council meetings
- Invest in public water source so not dependent on bottled water
- Community meetings with watershed owners / stakeholders
- Better access and cost sharing for private wells
- Explore options for community water treatment better protection
- ✓More people should have option for better access to community water supply
- Install ozone / ultraviolet
- Protect the source first
- More education about types of treatment / impacts
- Move to phase out chlorination
- Ban clear cutting
- Try to make better use of grey water (separate systems)

**Table G** (Tom Osborne, Small Group Facilitator)

- Less individual control over water collection areas one body
- Larger parcel size in aqua re-charge area – also don't reduce existing
- Educational / promotion / signage on water source contamination + care
- Water metres – water temperature
- Outlaw pesticides – e.g. Weed n Feed
- Higher role by RDN in land use in #3 watershed / collection areas with province and corporations
- Move away from individual septic systems to more district / neighbourhood (alternative ways)

**Table H** (Neil Connelly, Small Group Facilitator)

- New regulations for water conservation fixtures retro fitting (maintenance issues)
- Water supply area protection (wetlands)
  - enhancement of existing areas
  - identify, examine measures
  - acquire
- Education importance of sources of water and problems that contribute to water loss and contamination
- Minimize changes to natural drainage (storm water planning)
- Citizen group assistance
- Watershed protection
  - Land use control
  - Agricultural practices
- Source control, best practices

**Table I** (Mike Donnelly, Small Group Facilitator)

- Require subdivisions of 2 or greater lots to establish a water system. Brings them under the DWS.
- Improve coordination of jurisdictions to create an effective interjurisdictional body aimed at protecting watersheds and groundwater.
- Improve tracking and information access on water resources. Allows for improved decision making.

- Look for ways to reduce the use of chlorine in water systems. UV, etc.
- Maintain public ownership of water systems. Avoid moves to privatize systems. Loss of control could lead to degraded systems / quality

### **Table J** (Christina Thomas, Small Group Facilitator)

- Test for more parameters
- Need protection for people on wells (including in DWPA)
- Watershed management plan with principles like GVRD one
- Obtain a copy of Auditor General's report and implement its recommendations (RDN to distribute)
- Establish an abandoned well closure plan
- Establish well drilling standards
- Establish a well registration program
- Remind GNWD that they promised to consider purchasing watershed
- Purchase watersheds \*\*
- Change laws to recognize sustainable land use practices (forestry, agriculture)
- Establish similar level of regulation on private and public land
- Change law to make clean drinking water a right
- Establish full spectrum water systems (e.g. including filtration)
- One-stop shopping to find answer to water problem
- Ban public access to Nanaimo watersheds

### **Table K** (Deb Churko, Small Group Facilitator)

- Education, taking responsibility for own actions
- Residents unsure of greater benefit of using chlorination
- Responsible resource development
- Limit contaminant input to drinking waters and therefore limit treatment used
- Sufficient treatment of biological contaminants (i.e. giardia)
- Maintaining distribution systems, i.e. finances
- Political will

### **Table L** (Blaine Russell, Small Group Facilitator)

- Land use / protection of areas
  - land use / zoning
  - alternate source
  - certification or understanding of water quality information
  - challenge of Certified Operators – Training time frames
- Supervision
  - RDN supervisor's role
  - Increased RDN ownership of systems
  - Direct control of system
- Individual Responsibility
  - Maintenance and Inspection Bylaws to deal with existing septic
  - Well head protection

- Well registration
- Cooperation (interjurisdictional)
  - Assisting small water providers
  - Cooperation with other water providers to work towards common goals
  - Apply for funds to assist smaller operators
  - Encourage waterless disposal systems
- Conservation
  - Individual

# APPENDIX E: TOP PRIORITY ACTIONS TO ADDRESS DRINKING WATER QUALITY ISSUES

## Table A (Dennis Trudeau, Small Group Facilitator)

- Limit growth until quality water available (AWS)
- Information package (how to) on creating water system
- Watershed control protection
  - Public protection
- Effective timely water monitoring (high standard)

## Table B (Al Stanley, Small Group Facilitator)

- Education (up stream residents, increased availability of data including quantity and quality, use the web site)
- Riparian protection on private lands, including A.R., F.R., mining (minimum 30 metre setbacks)
- More and better data (well logs, aquifer mapping)
- More ability of local government to control watersheds and watersources (e.g. no OCP overrides)

## Table C (Director Dave Bartram, Small Group Facilitator)

- Establish drinking water protection function in RDN to protect water quality with regulations and bylaws with consequences for non-compliance
- Maintain a sustainable water supply through conservation and alternate water supply methods, to include education in schools
- Facilitate private well water testing to include information on test results and water quantity and quality readings for all areas in the RDN on the internet
- Accountability

## Table D (John Finnie, Small Group Facilitator)

- Preserve and/or restore the natural environment around or that might implicate watersheds and water supply areas
- Control access to and use of natural environment around or that might implicate watersheds and water supply areas
- Education and awareness (water conservation, waste disposal, etc.) (and non-point pollution sources)\*\*
- More controls on new development for protection of water source / supply areas.
- Promote / support stewardship groups and educational initiatives
- Watershed and well head protection initiatives.



### **Table E** (Keeva Kehler & Carey McIver, Small Group Facilitators)

- Protect watershed
- Designate level of government to protect water sources
- More science and BMPs (best management practices)
- More education and assistance to private well owners

### **Table F** (Bob Lapham, Small Group Facilitator)

- Try to acquire watersheds (discussion / negotiation / expropriation)
- Standard of discharge should equal standard of intake
- Better coordination of water quality management (including funding and education)
- More people should have option for better access to community water supply
- Ban clear cutting in community watersheds

### **Table G** (Tom Osborne, Small Group Facilitator)

- Educational / promotion / signage on water source contamination + care
- Outlaw pesticides – e.g. Weed n Feed
- Move away from individual septic systems to more district / neighbourhood (alternative ways)

### **Table H** (Neil Connelly, Small Group Facilitator)

- New regulations for water conservation fixtures retro fitting (maintenance issues)
- Water supply area protection (wetlands)
  - enhancement of existing areas
  - identify, examine measures
  - acquire
- Education importance of sources of water and problems that contribute to water loss and contamination
- Minimize changes to natural drainage (storm water planning)
- Citizen group assistance
- Watershed protection
  - Land use control
  - Agricultural practices
- Source control, best practices

### **Table I** (Mike Donnelly, Small Group Facilitator)

- Require subdivisions of 2 or greater lots to establish a water system. Brings them under the DWS.
- Improve coordination of jurisdictions to create an effective interjurisdictional body aimed at protecting watersheds and groundwater.
- Improve tracking and information access on water resources. Allows for improved decision making.

- Look for ways to reduce the use of chlorine in water systems. UV, etc.
- Maintain public ownership of water systems. Avoid moves to privatize systems. Loss of control could lead to degraded systems / quality

### **Table J (Christina Thomas, Small Group Facilitator)**

- Develop a watershed management strategy (use GVRD, CRD model, to cover public and private lands, to involve purchase of watershed land)
- Public information and awareness (one stop information shop, one place to get information about every aspect related to drinking water)
- Establish appropriate treatment and testing and closure standards for each water supply (including wells)

### **Table K (Deb Churko, Small Group Facilitator)**

- Interjurisdictional responsibility and cooperation
- Education
- Watershed protection
- Waste water and drainage management

### **Table L (Blaine Russell, Small Group Facilitator)**

- Individual Responsibility
  - Maintenance and Inspection Bylaws to deal with existing septic
  - Well head protection
  - Well registration
- Cooperation (interjurisdictional)
  - Assisting small water providers
  - Cooperation with other water providers to work towards common goals
  - Apply for funds to assist smaller operators
  - Encourage waterless disposal systems
- Land use / protection of areas
  - land use / zoning
  - alternate source
  - certification or understanding of water quality information
  - challenge of Certified Operators – Training time frames
- Supervision
  - RDN supervisor's role
  - Increased RDN ownership of systems
  - Direct control of system
- Conservation
  - Individual



REGIONAL  
DISTRICT  
OF NANAIMO

## **FEEDBACK REPORT**

*for the April 30, 2004*

# **DRINKING WATER QUALITY DISCUSSION PAPER**

May 31, 2004



## SUMMARY

As a part of the Drinking Water Protection Workshop Initiative residents were provided an opportunity to provide feedback about what they think are the five highest priority actions that should be undertaken to address drinking water quality issues in the region through a Comment Form contained in the Drinking Water Quality Discussion Paper published on April 30, 2004<sup>1</sup>.

The Discussion Paper Comment Form was intended to provide an alternative method for residents to share their perspectives about the topic if they could not attend the Saturday, May 8, 2004 Drinking Water Quality Workshop. It was also intended to provide a supplemental opportunity for Workshop participants that desired an additional opportunity to share their perspectives about the topic.

Eleven Drinking Water Quality Discussion Paper Comment Forms representing feedback from twelve residents (see Appendix A) were received at the Regional District of Nanaimo by the May 21, 2004 submission deadline.

Four key themes emerged in the actions suggested on the Drinking Water Quality Discussion Paper Comment Forms:

**1. Acquire land in watersheds.**

Land in watersheds should be acquired through purchase, negotiation or expropriation. Groundwater recharge areas should also be identified and protected through purchase.

**2. Raise public awareness about drinking water issues and enhance communications among all organizations with roles and responsibilities related to drinking water.**

Suggestions include:

- placing signs in ditches to inform people about drinking water contamination possibilities,
- establishing a one-stop resource centre where residents can obtain all the pertinent information about the different methods of obtaining drinking water and the requirements for all of the different types of water providers,
- providing information to residents who get their water from the Nanaimo River watershed about arrangements that have been made with Weyerhaeuser to protect their water supply,
- providing information to residents about the cost of obtaining drinking water from local supplies versus purchasing bottled water,
- providing information to residents about the water conservation and environmental protection as it relates to drinking water quality,
- engaging the public in discussions about drinking water through events like the Workshop,
- offering educational programs about water management,
- establishing a school program to educate children about drinking water protection,
- posting water quality monitoring test results for every water provider in region on a web site.

---

<sup>1</sup>The availability of the Discussion Paper was advertised in two local freely distributed newspapers and on the RDN web site. Copies of the Discussion Paper were made available to the public at the RDN offices and on the RDN web site. A copy of the Discussion Paper was also provided to each participant at the May 8, 2004 Drinking Water Quality Workshop.

**3. Enact legislation at all levels to enhance drinking water protection.**

Suggestions include establishing legislation that:

- requires industrial water users to relocate their intakes downstream from their outflows;
- requires Weyerhaeuser to remove all heavy metals and other contaminants they may have contributed to the Nanaimo River watershed;
- establishes drinking water provision as the highest priority use in watersheds;
- requires industries to put their outflow upstream from their intake;
- prohibits clear cut logging in watersheds;
- standardizes regulations that pertain to drinking water across the Province;
- protects watersheds, both surface and groundwater;
- increases the ability of local governments to protect drinking water source areas; and
- requires the submission of water well drill records and well logs to the Province for inclusion into a database.

**4. Institute land use, development and servicing practices that enhance drinking water protection.**

Suggestions include:

- Industrial users locating their intakes downstream from their outflows;
- Locating drinking water intakes above pollution producing areas, such as farms, homes and industries;
- Eliminating chemical use in watersheds;
- Installing ozonation and ultra-violet equipment rather than continuing to use chlorine as the main drinking water purifier.
- Replacing septic systems with community sewer systems;
- Increasing the minimum parcel size in rural areas and aqua recharge areas;
- Protecting wetlands and riparian areas; and
- Providing drinking water to property owners who are unable to obtain a sufficient quantity of a quality drinking water supply from their onsite water wells.

This report will be used as a source of information in the development of an 'action plan' regarding drinking water quality.

## APPENDIX A: DISCUSSION PAPER FEEDBACK

Discussion Paper Comment Form respondents provided feedback about what they deem to be the highest priority actions be undertaken to address drinking water quality issues in the region. The following provides a verbatim record of the ideas submitted.

### Jim Erkiletian

- Legislation to force industrial water users to relocate their intakes downstream from their outflows.
- Municipal control of the watershed from which Nanaimo gets their water, if not by purchase, by expropriation.
- Legislation to force Weyerhaeuser to remove all heavy metals and other contaminants they have insinuated in the watershed.
- Initiation of class action lawsuits against Weyerhaeuser for future health effects on citizens.
- Legislation that clearly maintains the quality of drinking water takes precedence over all other uses, all activities in watersheds.

### Janette Briere

- Gain control of Nanaimo watershed either by buying or expropriating it, as other communities are doing.
- Require Weyerhaeuser to stop dumping any chemicals in our watersheds, i.e. apply the precautionary principle.
- Install ozonation and ultra-violet equipment and stop chlorine usage.
- Require industries to put their outflow upstream from their intake, i.e. standard of discharge should equal stand of intake.
- Ban clear-cutting in community watersheds.

### N.S. Goldsberry

- Greater role by RDN in addressing watershed use with individuals, corporation or province. A "management" strategy.
- Move away from septic field (individual family) to neighbourhood alternatives.
- Public signage on ditches, streams to remind people of contamination issues. Youth, summer workers?
- Identify and protect or purchase ground water recharge areas.
- Limiting parcel sizes in aqua recharge or rural areas; protect riparian areas.
- Better communication to resident regarding testing, protection measures and partnership arrangements with Weyerhaeuser, which ensure a high quality drinking water product. I heard fear and confusion in voices of many at the May 8<sup>th</sup> forum. Many don't trust officials are acting in their interests.

### R. Creber

- Better coordination of Water Quality Management shared by several agencies. Provincial and local government should keep moving in direction that affords better communication and consideration.
- Long term approach to acquire land ownership control of the watershed. Water users/community members may be interested to put money towards this goal. Can we ask them? Referendum/negotiation?

### Brian Booth

- Standardize regulations applied uniformly throughout the province without regard to boundaries or jurisdictions.

- One stop resource centre, which provide clear, practical and enforceable instruction and requirements for all water users or controllers.
- A short time cycle for application permits that are appropriate for purposed use.
- Guardianship of water resources, including specific requirements by water agency for conservation.
- Access to funding for groups or user to engage in meaningful water conservation initiatives.

#### Andy Rowe

- Ownership of sources - discussions, negotiation, litigation, expropriation -- involving all levels of government and non-profits such as NALT and TLC, etc.
- Protection of wetlands, via expropriation if necessary.
- Strong lobby strategy focused on sustainable government programs.
- Litigation as per common law case involving nuisance if shown fertilizing and/or clear cutting (re: City of Nanaimo supply) affecting water quality.
- Campaign to educate public re: cost of local supply vs bottled, expensive filters, etc. Encouragement to spend money protecting at source (could be part of fundraising campaign to purchase source properties).

#### Donna Goodall

- Drinking water is provided to regions who can not get quality drinking water from wells.
- Drinking water quality made top priority over any influence surrounding the watershed and its aquifer.
- Our area has problems with bacteria, iron and tannon. If we need water it should be provided.

#### Gillian Butler

- Attain ownership and control of the watershed. Work together as citizens to regain power and responsibility for our local government, and from there bring about ownership of the watershed.
- Regenerate a natural forest in the watershed, which will eventually, and once again, provide users with safe and clean water, recognizing that no "state of the art" engineered equipment will ever do as good a job, nor be free from defects, breakdowns, aging, errors, and costs. In other words we need a healthy ecosystem to have healthy water.
- Educate (and involved) all citizens about the importance of environmental protection and conservation of water (and the environment) by supporting NGO's, GO's, and the principles involved needed to bring about change in attitudes and practices.
- I attended the workshop on May 8<sup>th</sup>. I have attended many workshops, and we spend a lot of time discussing the importance of clean water, if not for humans, then for fish, for whales, for birds, for plants! It seems we all need clean water and air for something. Every user group (or representatives) seems to face the same problems; lack of control, lack of education, lack of funds. Maybe we could work together, pool resources, and achieve the same goals. By rethinking the importance of clean water as a fundamental need for life itself, and therefore of higher importance than anything else, even profit, we will be better able to work together.
- Continue to communicate and work with the public on issues such as this. I appreciate having the chance to learn from others, and to have my opinions heard. I was impressed that at the end of the day we reached the same conclusions even though we came from different places.

#### Randy and Sandy Robinson

- The May 8<sup>th</sup> Water Quality Workshop made it clear that the current BC drinking water protection laws, regulations and jurisdictional boundaries all hamper effective action regarding drinking water quality. Therefore, the RDN must determine a process of how action can be taken to replace or modify the current laws and regulations in order to meet the new demands for drinking water protection in our region.



- Create drinking water intakes above pollution-producing areas, such as farms, homes and industries. Determine how to acquire land further inland and at higher altitudes and pipe water from these protected areas down to consumers, particularly in the Arrowsmith watersheds.
- Provide tax incentives for good water-use practices by industry, farmers and householders.
- Offer relevant educational programs in good water management.

#### Brian Dempsey

- Watershed protection, both surface and groundwater. Continue to work, lobby, province for stronger legislation to protect water.
- Community sewers should be required particularly where ground water is used.
- Emergency supply - in event of an earthquake how will water be supplied? Any plans? Small systems cannot meet demand.
- Monitor Quadra sands to determine long-term groundwater levels on East Coast of Island. Work with Ground Water Association.
- Work toward regional water system to provide long-term supply as well as backup. Look at alternative sources that might be required.

#### Bruce Galick

- \* The RDN should be able to exert pressure to protect our water resources at the source.
- \* Establish a drinking water protection function in RDN to protect water quality.
- \* Maintain a sustainable water supply through conservation and alternate water supply methods to include education in schools.
- Facilitate private well water testing to include information on test results and water quality and quantity readings for all areas and post results on web site.
- To put forward a motion to the provincial government a law requiring all drilling (well) and well log records and drill results recorded into a database.

**TO:** Neil Connelly  
General Manager, Community Services

**DATE:** June 8, 2004

**FROM:** Christina Thomas  
Senior Planner, Community Services

**FILE:** 5280 01 INPL

**SUBJECT:** INVASIVE PLANT STRATEGY FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA

**PURPOSE**

The purposes of this report are:

- to provide information about the “Invasive Plant Strategy of British Columbia”; and
- to consider becoming a signatory to the “Invasive Plant Strategy for British Columbia Memorandum of Support”.

**BACKGROUND**

The Regional District of Nanaimo received a request from the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) to sign the “Invasive Plant Strategy for British Columbia Memorandum of Support” (*see Attachment 1*). UBCM has invited other local governments to sign the Memorandum too.

The “Invasive Plant Strategy for British Columbia Memorandum of Support” is one of the key components of the “Invasive Plant Strategy for British Columbia (*see separate enclosure*)”<sup>1</sup> developed by the Fraser Basin Council in cooperation with a diverse group of contributors from all orders of government (federal, provincial, local<sup>2</sup> and First Nations), land and water based user groups, resource based businesses and industries, utilities and non-governmental organizations.

The Strategy was developed to respond to concerns about the exponential increase in the damage and threats caused by invasive plants<sup>3</sup>, exacerbated by inconsistent management around the province. According to the Strategy, invasive plants:

- endanger public health and safety because they increase allergies, are potentially toxic to humans, pets, livestock and wildlife, they clog waterways used for swimming and boating, and they reduce visibility on transportation corridors;
- increase costs for maintaining resources and public utilities;
- destroy natural habitat for birds, butterflies, and other wildlife, domestic animals, and fish and other aquatic organisms;
- reduce the yield and quality of agricultural crops and natural forage, and the quality and price of marketable livestock;
- accelerate stream erosion and stream sedimentation, consume stream water resources and negatively impact water quality;
- increase the wildfire hazard and interfere with regeneration of forests;

<sup>1</sup> The Strategy may also be viewed on the Fraser Basin Council web site at [www.fraserbasin.bc.ca](http://www.fraserbasin.bc.ca).

<sup>2</sup> Gordon Gillette, Cariboo Regional District, represented the UBCM and local governments in the development of the Strategy. Eleven regional districts provided funding for the development of the Strategy. The Regional District of Nanaimo contribution was \$1500.

<sup>3</sup> Invasive plants are defined as those that “have a capacity to establish quickly and easily on new sites, whether through prolific seed production, aggressive rooting structures, broad ecological amplitude or other characteristics”. The term invasive plant refers to “any invasive alien plant species that has the potential to pose undesirable or detrimental impacts on humans, animals or ecosystems.”

- act as carriers of disease and insects to beneficial plants; and
- decrease land values.

The goal of the Strategy is to build cooperation and coordination to protect BC's environment and minimize negative social and economic impacts caused by the introduction, establishment and spread of invasive alien plants.

The Strategy calls for the establishment of a new "Invasive Plant Council of British Columbia" to coordinate invasive plant management Province-wide. To that end, the UBCM requested the submission of nominations for local government representation on the Council by May 28, 2004. All local governments are invited to attend the Council's first meeting in Richmond on June 24, 2004. The Council will use its collective influence to facilitate and achieve action to address strategic-level issues, rather than exercise legislated authority. It will include membership from all of the same types of organizations represented in the development of the Strategy. A 17 member Board of Directors, comprised of members of the Council, including two local government representatives, will make decisions on behalf of the Council.

The five key preliminary actions to be undertaken by the new Council pursuant to the Strategy are:

1. Help ensure sufficient funding both for its province-wide coordination role and for operational invasive plant management;
2. Recommend changes to strengthen provincial and federal legislation;
3. Work towards improved compliance with current and new legislation;
4. Communicate and coordinate among its diverse membership; and
5. Increase public awareness and outreach.

The Strategy identifies the roles of the key participants<sup>4</sup> to be involved in implementing the Strategy. The expected roles and responsibilities of local government under the Strategy are to:

- Conduct invasive plant management on land it occupies to a level that achieves the Strategy's goal;
- Operate, encourage the establishment of, or participate on a multi-sector weed committee to coordinate invasive plant management by stakeholders at the local level;
- Encourage private landowners to comply with provincial legislation;
- Provide leadership and support for public education at the local level;
- Encourage the implementation of prevention strategies;
- Deliver on the ground invasive plant management programs on private land, at the direction of the regional district board or municipal council, as appropriate.

It should be noted that becoming a signatory to the Memorandum does not commit the RDN to the expenditure of any resources to undertake the above-described activities, but signatories are expected to endorse the intent of the "Invasive Plant Strategy for British Columbia" and thereby agree to uphold and espouse its goal.

## ALTERNATIVES

1. To receive the report, endorse the "Invasive Plant Strategy for British Columbia", and accept the invitation to become a signatory to the "Invasive Plant Strategy for British Columbia Memorandum of Support".
2. To receive the report, and decline the invitation to sign the Memorandum.

<sup>4</sup> Key participants include the provincial government, local government, regional weed committees, land occupiers, industry, non-governmental organizations, academia and research organizations.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications in becoming a signatory to the "Invasive Plant Strategy for British Columbia Memorandum of Support". Signatories to the Memorandum could, in the future, be requested to provide support (either financial or in the form of human resources) to help cooperatively implement the Strategy. However, the Board would have an opportunity to decide how much, if any, financial resources it would be willing to contribute if such a request is made.

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

The Invasive Plant Strategy for BC will contribute towards environmental protection by putting in place a strategy that will help reduce the negative impacts that invasive plants have on the environment.

## INTERGOVERNMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

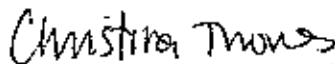
Becoming a signatory to the Memorandum presents an opportunity for the RDN to be a part of a collaborative partnership approach among all levels of government and a wide variety of other parties to manage invasive plants. In 2003 and 2004 the RDN requested the assistance of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities and the Union of British Columbia municipalities to help address its concerns about hogweed, one type of invasive plant in the region. Participation in the Invasive Plant Strategy initiative provides an effective mechanism to address the region's concerns about hogweed and other invasive plants in the region, and positively influence the management of invasive plants in the region and elsewhere in the Province.

## SUMMARY

The Regional District of Nanaimo received a request from the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) to sign the "Invasive Plant Strategy for British Columbia Memorandum of Support" (see Attachment 1). It is recommended that the RDN accept the invitation to sign the Memorandum as it provides an opportunity to work with other parties that are concerned about the impacts of invasive plant proliferation to develop collaborative solutions and exert the necessary influence to make the solutions a reality.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

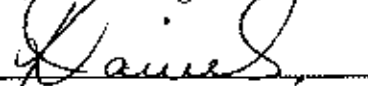
1. That the report, "Invasive Plant Strategy for British Columbia" be received.
2. That the Regional District of Nanaimo endorse the "Invasive Plant Strategy for British Columbia" and sign the "Invasive Plant Strategy for British Columbia Memorandum of Support".



Report Writer



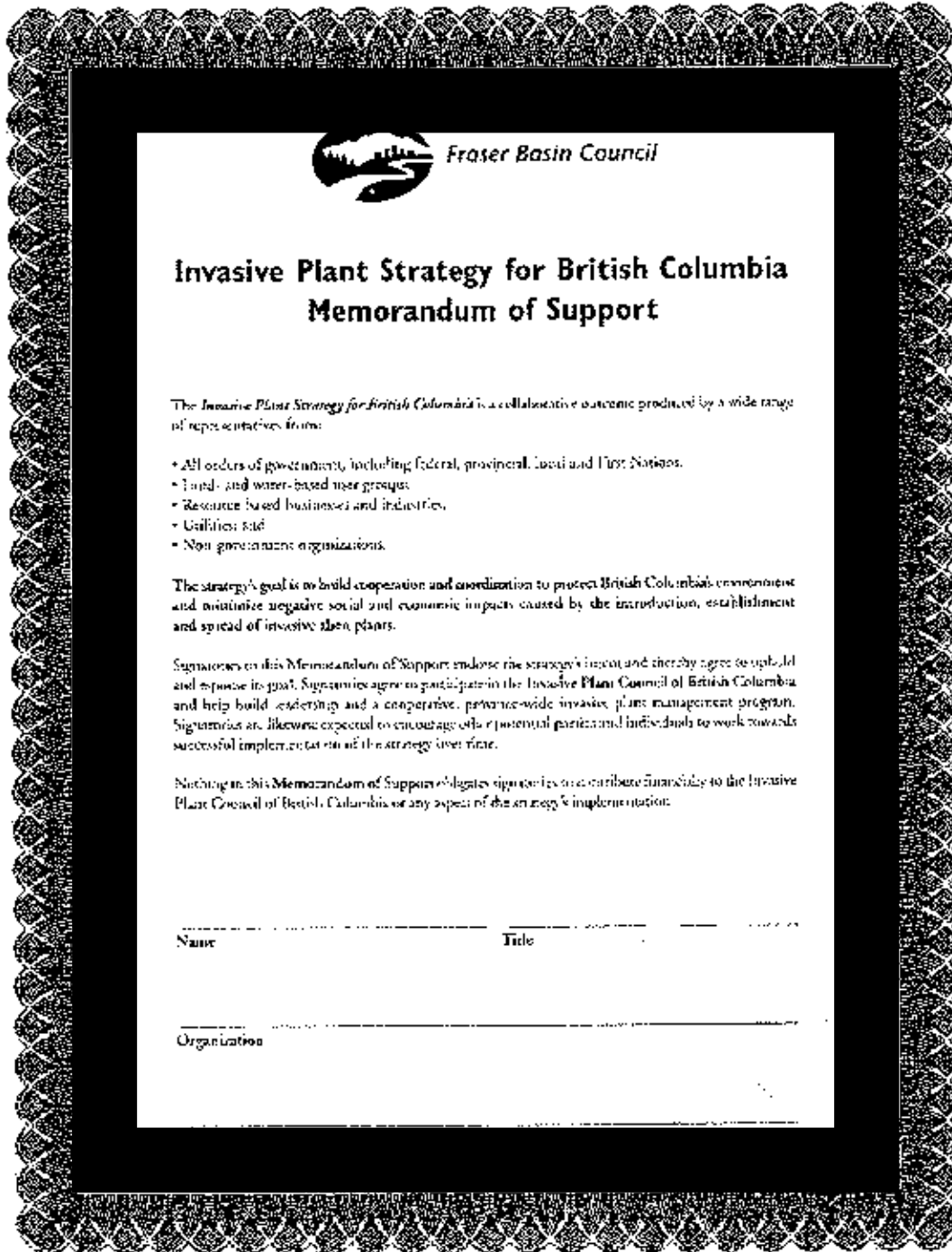
General Manager Concurrence

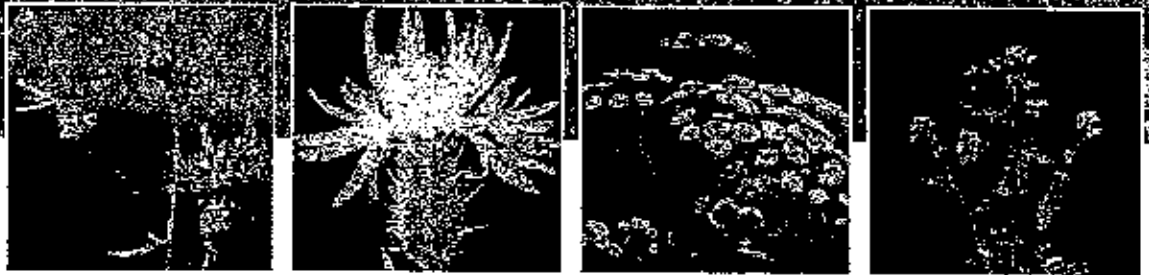
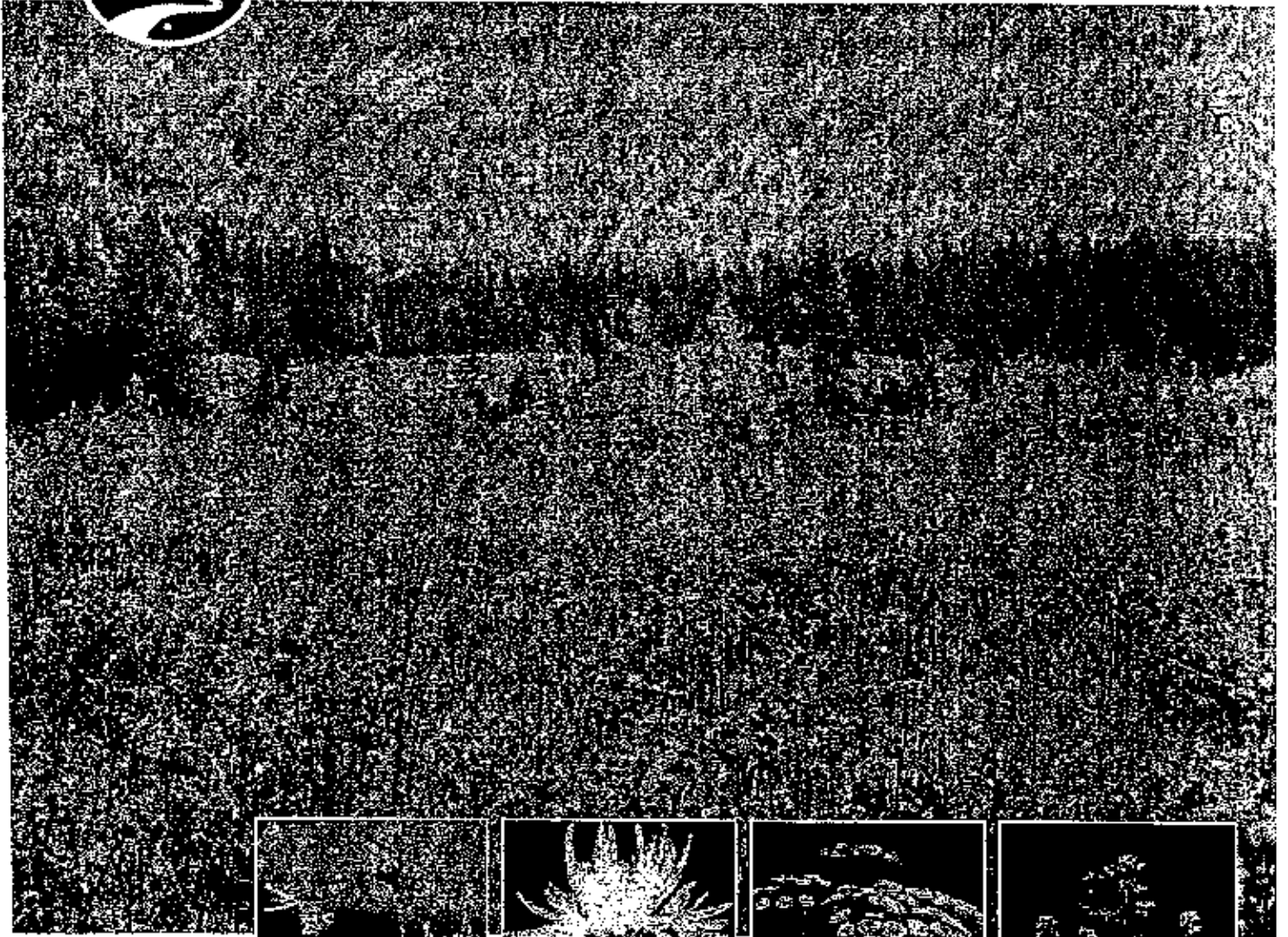


CAO Concurrence

ATTACHMENT #1

INVASIVE PLANT STRATEGY FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT





# Invasive Plant Strategy for British Columbia



## Invasive Plant Strategy for British Columbia

**FUNDING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE STRATEGY WAS PROVIDED BY:**

BC Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection

BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

First Nations Agricultural Association

Fraser Basin Council

Regional Districts of: Bulkley-Nechako, Capital, Cariboo, Central Okanagan,  
Columbia-Shuswap, Fraser-Fort George,  
Greater Vancouver, Nanaimo, Peace River,  
Squamish-Lillooet, Thompson-Nicola

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many people contributed to the development of this *Invasive Plant Strategy for British Columbia*. These individuals represent a wide variety of affiliations and backgrounds. The 11 members of the strategy's writing group listed below worked diligently to incorporate feedback from written submissions and workshops. The strategy subsequently reflects a wide base of technical and experiential knowledge about invasive plant management in British Columbia and beyond.

Gail Wallin of the Fraser Basin Council managed and facilitated the strategy's development, and Gail Lucier provided valuable administrative support. Jane Perry of J. Perry Resource Communications served as the strategy's technical writer. Raymond McAlister of the Fraser Basin Council coordinated the strategy's final production.

## STRATEGY WRITING GROUP MEMBERS

- Duncan Barnett, 150 Mile House, representing the BC Cattlemen's Association
- Dwayne Brooke, Kamloops, BC Ministry of Forests
- Roy Cranston, Abbotsford, BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
- Gordon Gillette, Williams Lake, Cariboo Regional District, representing the Union of BC Municipalities
- Dave Konesky, Burnaby, Envirov Consulting Inc., representing the Integrated Vegetation Management Association of BC
- Ted Lea, Victoria, BC Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection
- Raymond McAlister, Vancouver, Fraser Basin Council
- Kristy Palmantier, Williams Lake, Williams Lake Indian Band; writing group alternate facilitator
- Jane Perry, Williams Lake, J. Perry Resource Communications, technical writer
- Barb Stewart, Rock Creek, Boundary Weed Management Committee, representing regional weed committees
- Gail Wallin, Williams Lake, Fraser Basin Council; strategy manager and facilitator

## PHOTOGRAPHS USED IN THIS DOCUMENT

Photographs in this strategy were provided by the Province of British Columbia. The majority of the photographs are from the *Field Guide to Noxious and Other Selected Weeds of British Columbia*, a document produced by the BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries and BC Ministry of Forests.

### FRONT COVER:

Large Photo: Marsh Thistle Infestation

Small Photos (left to right): Spotted Knapweed, Diffuse Knapweed Flower, Common Tansy, Canada Thistle

## FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:



*Fraser Basin Council*

Fraser Basin Council  
1st Floor – 470 Granville Street  
Vancouver BC V6C 1V5

Tel: (604) 488-5350  
Fax: (604) 488-5351  
Email: [gwallin@fraserbasin.bc.ca](mailto:gwallin@fraserbasin.bc.ca)

[www.fraserbasin.bc.ca](http://www.fraserbasin.bc.ca)



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2. MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT.....</b>	<b>3</b>
2.1 OVERVIEW.....	3
2.2 LIST OF SENATORS.....	3
<b>3. INTRODUCTION TO THE STRATEGY.....</b>	<b>4</b>
3.1 DEFINITION OF "INVASIVE PLANT".....	4
3.2 GOAL AND OBJECTIVES.....	4
3.3 PRINCIPLES.....	5
3.3.1 Integrated Pest Management.....	5
3.3.2 Ecosystem Approach.....	5
3.4 HISTORY.....	6
3.5 RATIONALE.....	6
<b>4. BACKGROUND.....</b>	<b>7</b>
4.1 GLOBAL, NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL CONTEXT.....	7
4.2 HOW INVASIVE PLANTS SPREAD.....	8
<b>5. IMPACTS OF INVASIVE PLANTS.....</b>	<b>9</b>
5.1 HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY.....	9
5.2 ENVIRONMENT AND BIODIVERSITY.....	9
5.3 AGRICULTURE.....	10
5.4 ANIMAL HEALTH.....	11
5.5 FOREST MANAGEMENT.....	11
5.6 SOCIO-ECONOMIC.....	11
5.7 FIRST NATIONS.....	12
5.8 TOURISM AND RECREATION.....	12
<b>6. CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS TO INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT.....</b>	<b>13</b>
6.1 THE TOP TEN CHALLENGES.....	13
6.2 SOLUTIONS.....	13
6.2.1 Cooperation.....	13
6.2.2 Resources.....	13
6.2.3 Legislation.....	14
6.2.4 Compliance.....	14
6.2.5 Federal Lands.....	14
6.2.6 Prevention.....	14
6.2.7 Inventory.....	15
6.2.8 Regional Coordination.....	15
6.2.9 Aquatic Species.....	15
6.2.10 Research.....	15
<b>7. INVASIVE PLANT COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.....</b>	<b>16</b>
7.1 OVERVIEW AND FUNCTION.....	16
7.2 BOARD OF DIRECTORS.....	17
7.3 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.....	17
<b>8. KEY ACTIONS FOR THE INVASIVE PLANT COUNCIL.....</b>	<b>19</b>
8.1 HELP ENSURE SUFFICIENT FUNDING.....	19
8.2 RECOMMEND LEGISLATIVE CHANGES.....	19
8.3 AIM FOR IMPROVED COMPLIANCE.....	20
8.4 ENHANCE COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION.....	20
8.5 INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS AND OUTREACH.....	20

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>9. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF OTHER STRATEGY PARTICIPANTS.....</b>	<b>21</b>
9.1 FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.....	22
9.1.1 Overview and Function.....	21
9.1.2 Roles and Responsibilities.....	22
9.2 FIRST NATIONS.....	22
9.2.1 Overview and Function.....	22
9.2.2 Roles and Responsibilities.....	22
9.3 PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT.....	23
9.3.1 Overview and Function.....	23
9.3.2 Roles and Responsibilities.....	23
9.4 LOCAL GOVERNMENT.....	23
9.4.1 Overview and Function.....	23
9.4.2 Roles and Responsibilities.....	23
9.5 REGIONAL WEED COMMITTEES.....	24
9.5.1 Overview and Function.....	24
9.5.2 Roles and Responsibilities.....	24
9.6 LAND OCCUPIER.....	24
9.6.1 Overview and function.....	24
9.6.2 Roles and Responsibilities.....	24
9.7 INDUSTRY.....	24
9.7.1 Overview and Function.....	24
9.7.2 Roles and Responsibilities.....	24
9.8 NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS.....	25
9.8.1 Overview and Function.....	25
9.8.2 Roles and Responsibilities.....	25
9.9 ACADEMIA AND RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS.....	25
9.9.1 Overview and Function.....	25
9.9.2 Roles and Responsibilities.....	25
<b>10. IMPLEMENTING AND MONITORING THE STRATEGY.....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>11. REFERENCES.....</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>12. CURRENT LEGISLATION.....</b>	<b>28</b>
12.1 FEDERAL.....	28
12.2 PROVINCIAL.....	28
<b>13. MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT – POTENTIAL SIGNATORIES.....</b>	<b>29</b>
MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT	

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The term "invasive plant" in this strategy refers to any invasive alien plant species that has the potential to pose undesirable or detrimental impacts on humans, animals or ecosystems.

The term "invasive plant" in this strategy refers to any invasive alien plant species that has the potential to pose undesirable or detrimental impacts on humans, animals or ecosystems. Invasive plants have the capacity to establish quickly and easily on new sites, and they have widespread negative economic, social and environmental impacts. Many invasive plants in British Columbia are "alien" to North America, and may also be referred to as "non-native," "exotic" or "introduced" plant species.

The *Invasive Plant Strategy for British Columbia* is the product of a diverse group of contributors from:

- All orders of government—federal, provincial, local and First Nations;
- Land- and water-based user groups;
- Resource-based businesses and industries;
- Utilities; and
- Non-government organizations.

Led by the Fraser Basin Council, development of the strategy stemmed from the exponential increase in the damage and threats caused by invasive plants, exacerbated by inconsistent management around the province. The strategy is presented as a process-oriented document that complements and supports ongoing activities in invasive plant management.

The strategy's goal is to build cooperation and coordination to protect British Columbia's environment and minimize negative social and economic impacts caused by the introduction, establishment and spread of invasive alien plants. Implementing the strategy is expected to build commitment and "buy-in" throughout British Columbia from the many agencies, organizations and individuals concerned by, or associated with, invasive plant management. Integrated pest management principles will be promoted under the strategy when implementing invasive plant management programs.

The strategy identifies, and calls for action on, the "top ten" challenges to invasive plant management in British Columbia, which are the need to:

1. Improve cooperation among all orders of government, landowners and land users by establishing a body to provide province-wide leadership.
2. Provide the necessary resources for provincial Crown lands to increase the level of invasive plant management undertaken by the provincial government.
3. Enact provincial legislation to manage invasive species not classified as noxious weeds, and federal legislation to prevent the introduction of new invasive species to British Columbia.
4. Improve compliance with current legislation regarding the introduction, spread and control of invasive plants.
5. Increase management of invasive plants on federal land, with the provision of direct funding for First Nations reserve lands.
6. Coordinate a system for the early detection and eradication of new invasive species that arrive in the province, and monitor these populations' impacts and any expansion.
7. Establish a comprehensive provincial inventory of invasive plants in British Columbia.
8. Ensure that all areas of the province implement a regional approach to invasive plant management.
9. Improve the management of invasive aquatic plant species through the necessary technical expertise and funding resources.
10. Identify and promote coordinated research to increase knowledge and awareness about invasive plant biology, ecology and management options and ecosystem restoration.

Under the strategy, a new Invasive Plant Council of British Columbia (the "Council") will be established to coordinate invasive plant management province-wide. The Council will be formally

Wash Thistle



established as a legal, non-profit society with members and bylaws. Its inclusive membership will work to improve compliance with legislated responsibilities, establish research priorities, coordinate public awareness and outreach programs, and conduct other related functions and activities. The Council will not be associated with the funding or delivery of operational activities. Members of the Council will appoint a representative board of directors with comprehensive geographic and multi-stakeholder coverage.

The strategy identifies five key preliminary actions to be undertaken by the new Council:

1. Help ensure sufficient funding both for its province-wide coordination role and for operational invasive plant management.
2. Recommend changes to strengthen provincial and federal legislation.
3. Work towards improved compliance with current and new legislation.
4. Communicate and coordinate among its diverse membership.
5. Increase public awareness and outreach.

A number of other key participants will be involved in implementing the strategy.

The federal government will manage invasive plants on all federal lands and conduct research on invasive plant bio-control and management.

First Nations will play a larger role in the management of invasive plants on reserve lands by working closely with the federal, provincial and local governments, and participating directly with local weed committees.

The provincial government will oversee all relevant legislation and will manage invasive plants on Crown land, as well as provide technical expertise on key species in British Columbia.

Regional management of invasive plants will be delivered through a cooperative approach at the local level, involving local governments and regional weed committees, to coordinate delivery of operational invasive plant management programs.

Land occupiers will continue to be responsible for noxious weed control, as specified in the provincial *Weed Control Act*, and will be encouraged and supported to manage all invasive species. Improved public awareness and outreach on the prevention of invasive plant establishment, along with options for management, are expected to assist with this.

Industry will continue to conduct management activities, including voluntary control of known outbreaks. The numerous industrial sectors affiliated with land management will be relied on to influence their employees, contractors and clients about the importance of invasive plant management.

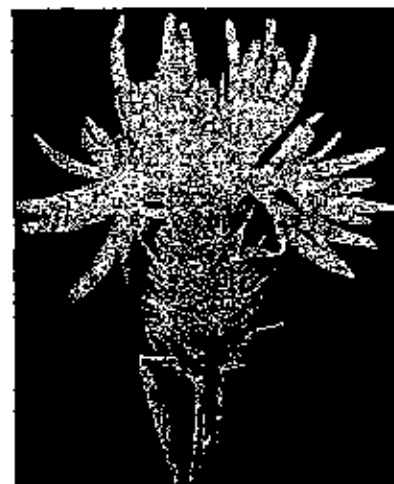
Non-government organizations will provide vital support and far-reaching influence about invasive plant management, both within the Council and to their respective members.

Finally, the academic and research community will provide essential technical support by developing new management strategies utilizing sound integrated vegetation management principles. Research scientists will be relied on for their contributions to advancing control methods.

The strategy includes a Memorandum of Support for signing by a wide range of potential signatories whose representatives would become members of the Council. Implementation of the strategy is expected to commence in 2004, with monitoring of its effectiveness, and the necessary modifications, made over time.

**Invasive plants** have the capacity to establish quickly and easily on new sites, and they have widespread negative economic, social and environmental impacts. Many invasive plants in British Columbia are "alien" to North America, and may also be referred to as "non-native," "exotic" or "introduced" plant species.

*Diffuse Knapweed*



Signatories to this Memorandum of Support are expected to endorse the *Invasive Plant Strategy for British Columbia* as organizational representatives. They may or may not also provide financial contributions towards the strategy's implementation.

### 2.1 Overview

The *Invasive Plant Strategy for British Columbia* is a collaborative outcome produced by a wide range of representatives from:

- All orders of government, including federal, provincial, local and First Nations;
- Land- and water-based user groups;
- Resource-based businesses and industries;
- Utilities; and
- Non-government organizations.

The strategy's goal is to build cooperation and coordination to protect British Columbia's environment and minimize negative social and economic impacts caused by the introduction, establishment and spread of invasive alien plants.

Signatories to this Memorandum of Support endorse the strategy's intent and thereby agree to uphold and espouse its goal. Signatories agree to participate in the Invasive Plant Council of British Columbia and help build leadership and a cooperative, province-wide invasive plant management program. Signatories are likewise expected to encourage other potential parties and individuals to work towards successful implementation of the strategy over time.

Nothing in this Memorandum of Support obligates signatories to contribute financially to the Invasive Plant Council of British Columbia or any aspect of the strategy's implementation.

### 2.2 List of Signatories

Strategy signatories will be recorded when a signed copy of the Memorandum of Support is submitted by an organization. A list of potential signatories to the Memorandum of Support can be found in Section 13, pages 29 and 30. A blank copy of this document, ready for signing, is provided at the end of the strategy.

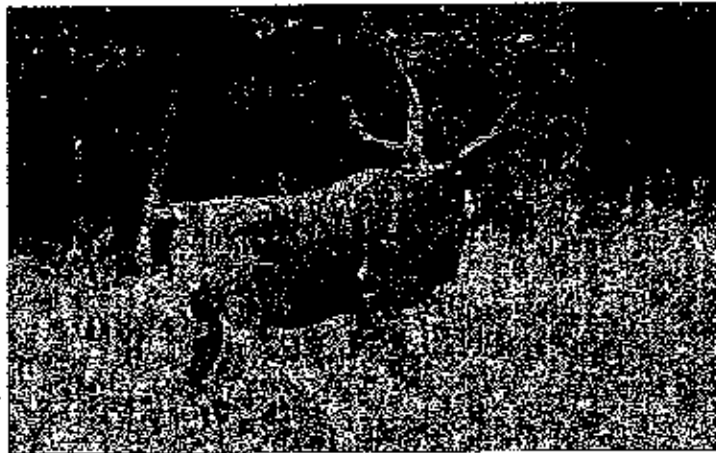
*John's-wort*



### 3.1 Definition of "Invasive Plant"

Many invasive plants in British Columbia are "alien" to North America and may also be referred to as "non-native," "exotic" or "introduced" plant species. Invasive plants have the capacity to establish quickly and easily on new sites, whether through prolific seed production, aggressive rooting structures, broad ecological amplitude or other characteristics. They are the prime focus of this strategy. However, the strategy also recognizes that certain invasive species have become established outside their natural range within British Columbia. Because of their impacts on biodiversity, the strategy also includes them on a case-specific basis.

Throughout this strategy, the term "invasive plant" refers to any invasive alien plant species that has the potential to pose undesirable or detrimental impacts on humans, animals or ecosystems.



*Caribou in field of Yellow Hawkweed.*

### 3.2 Goal and Objectives

The *Invasive Plant Strategy for British Columbia* is a process-oriented framework developed to improve province-wide invasive plant management. The strategy is presented to complement and support ongoing activities in invasive plant management and is not intended to serve as a technical summary for either invasive plants or their management.

The strategy's goal is to build cooperation and coordination to protect British Columbia's environment and minimize negative social and economic impacts caused by the introduction, establishment and spread of invasive alien plants. This will be done by:

1. Providing the framework to strengthen, support and coordinate efforts to manage invasive plants across all lands in BC;
2. Promoting the implementation of invasive plant management programs, using ecosystem-based, multi-stakeholder approaches and principles of integrated pest management; and
3. Establishing a broad-based commitment to long-term funding and the necessary human resources.

The objectives of the strategy are to:

1. Build and sustain effective multi-jurisdictional partnerships for collaborative and coordinated management of invasive plants in British Columbia and surrounding jurisdictions.
2. Help ensure secure, stable and long-term funding, resources and staffing for the coordination and implementation of invasive plant management in British Columbia.
3. Clearly define the roles and responsibilities for all relevant government, Crown agencies and affiliated groups and individuals, including landowners, occupiers and users.
4. Encourage effective legislation, regulation, compliance and enforcement options.

### Scope of the Invasive Plant Strategy for British Columbia

The strategy addresses **invasive alien plants** that can detrimentally impact the economy, social values or the environment. Often, all three areas are simultaneously affected.

The word **weed** is a widely used, general term used to refer to undesirable plants. The strategy avoids the term "weed" except where it is part of a title, such as the *British Columbia Weed Control Act* or "regional weed committee." It is also necessary to refer to **noxious weeds**, plants legislated under the provincial *Weed Control Act*.

*Common Tansy*



### Invasive Plant Strategy for British Columbia

The strategy is a process-oriented framework developed to improve province-wide cooperation and coordination. It is presented to complement and support ongoing activities in invasive plant management.

5. Increase public awareness of the impacts of invasive plants and management strategies for their prevention, detection and control.
6. Coordinate the development of a standardized process for the inventory of invasive plants, and the maintenance, storage and accessibility of this information.
7. Promote the application of coordinated research to improve control methods and reduce the impacts of invasive plants.
8. Monitor and evaluate the strategy's implementation and effectiveness.

#### 3.3 Principles

Two important principles of the *Invasive Plant Strategy for British Columbia* are that it incorporates integrated pest management practices and an ecosystem approach.

Integrated pest management is a decision making process that uses a combination of techniques to suppress pests (BC Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection 2003). Implementation of the strategy will use an ecosystem approach, which broadly evaluates how people's use of an ecosystem affects its functioning and productivity (World Resources Institute 2000).

##### 3.3.1 Integrated Pest Management

Integrated pest management principles will be promoted under the strategy when implementing invasive plant management programs. However, since the specific objective of the strategy is to target invasive plants, the strategy restricts the use of "pest" to specific invasive alien plant species, and therefore refers to "integrated vegetation management."

Integrated vegetation management is a balanced approach for managing vegetation that includes the following (based on BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries 2003a):

- Managing the resource to prevent the invasion of alien plants;
- Correctly identifying invasive plant species and learning about their biology, ecology and management;
- Conducting inventories and mapping, and monitoring invasive plant populations and damage;
- Making control decisions based on knowledge of potential damage, cost of control methods, and the environmental impact of both the invasive plant and the control decision;
- Using control strategies that may include a combination of methods to reduce the invasive plant population to an acceptable level; and
- Evaluating the effectiveness and impacts of management decisions.

##### 3.3.2 Ecosystem Approach

The Convention on Biological Diversity (2002) defines an ecosystem approach as:

*"A strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promises conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way. Application of the ecosystem approach will help to reach a balance of the three objectives of the Convention. [The ecosystem approach] is based on the application of appropriate scientific methodologies focused on levels of biological organization which encompass the essential processes, functions and interactions among organisms and their environments. It recognizes that humans, with their cultural diversity, are an integral component of ecosystems."*

The ecosystem approach is comprehensive; it is based on all of a watershed's biological resources and it considers the economic health of communities within that watershed (US Fish & Wildlife Service 2003).

Western Nighthawk Berris



An ecosystem approach for the invasive plant strategy incorporates the following principles (Ted Lea, BC Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, pers. comm.):

- Maintain healthy ecosystems, since they are more resilient to invasive species.
- Base priority setting and control treatments on susceptibility of ecosystems to the invasive species on the landscape, therefore, focus on species that will affect ecosystems and economic and environmental values the most.
- Prevent or minimize disturbances in any land use activities.
- Restore disturbed areas and degraded ecosystems to their natural state as soon as possible, or seed quickly to temporary cover.
- Treat ecosystems individually, and determine the appropriate management approach to invasive species and priorities based on knowledge of them.
- Consider other values when managing for invasive alien species, such as water quality, species at risk, wildlife, nesting sites and invertebrate food sources.

### 3.4 History

The process to develop an invasive plant strategy for British Columbia began with the Fraser Basin Council, a non-profit organization aimed at bringing people together to develop sustainable solutions to address complex issues. The Fraser Basin Council's board of directors participated in a field trip in the Cariboo in June 2001. The board's concerns led to a province-wide symposium, "Weeds Know No Boundaries," held in Williams Lake in May 2002. Over 160 participants endorsed the development of a strategy for British Columbia to provide a coordinated, practical approach that encourages cooperation by a wide range of stakeholders.

A province-wide workshop was held in Richmond in February 2003 to determine a process and structure for the strategy. Participants decided to work as a broad-based strategy development group that directs a strategy writing group supported by a technical writer. Two workshops held later that year, in Kamloops and Richmond, resulted in draft strategies that were distributed for review and comment. This final version of the strategy incorporates written responses and feedback from the workshops. Other comments and issues relating to the strategy's implementation have been collated and distributed for later use.

A parallel initiative was underway within the provincial government in 2003. The "Government Caucus Committee on Natural Resources -- Sub-Committee on Noxious Weeds" developed options and recommendations for Cabinet to ensure improved funding and program structure for noxious weed management on Crown land.

### 3.5 Rationale

The need to develop an invasive plant strategy for British Columbia stemmed from the exponential increase in the damage and threats caused by invasive plants, exacerbated by inconsistent management around the province. The actions in one managed geographic area have frequently been undermined by actions or lack of action in an adjacent unmanaged area. Invasive plant management therefore clearly requires province-wide cooperation beyond jurisdictional boundaries.

Representatives of many agencies and organizations strongly support addressing the lack of provincial coordination of invasive plant management. This is particularly important because of the widespread negative economic, social and environmental effects of invasive plants throughout the province. A process-oriented strategy is also expected to build commitment and "buy-in" throughout British Columbia from a diverse range of agencies, organizations and individuals concerned by, or associated with, invasive plant management.

*Scotch Broom*





.....

**invasive plants...**

have the capacity to establish quickly and easily on new sites, whether through prolific seed production, aggressive rooting structures, broad ecological amplitude or other characteristics. Many invasive plants in British Columbia are "alien" to North America or the province and may also be referred to as "non-native," "exotic" or "introduced."

Invasive species are considered the second-most serious factor responsible for the extinction of native species and loss of biodiversity, worldwide, after habitat loss.

.....

**is strategy addresses invasive plant species that can be undesirable or detrimental to humans, animals or ecosystems.**

.....

*invasive Chamomile*



#### 4.1 Global, National and Provincial Context

Human impact on the environment is widespread and global. Over time, people have transported plants with unique properties and uses to new environments to provide food crops, fibre and ornamental species. Modern global transportation of people and goods, along with increased international trade, have also facilitated the unintended transport of plants. Although many of these plants have improved the well-being of people around the world, other species have found their new environments extremely conducive to rapid establishment and growth, often to the detriment of natural ecosystems, wildlife, agricultural crops and livestock. These detrimental types of invasive plants are the subject of this strategy.

Invasive species produce widespread negative effects that influence many aspects of our lives. They cost ranchers, farmers, utilities, forest companies, government agencies, conservation organizations and the general public untold millions of dollars each year in lost productivity and increased management costs. Invasive plants transform the landscape, weakening the economic and environmental health of the areas they infest. The invasive plant problem crosses all political, ecological and land ownership boundaries, and negatively affects industries and activities that rely on healthy ecosystems.



*Chamomile Infestation.*

Approximately one-quarter of Canada's total 5,800 plant species originated in Europe or Eurasia, and 120–160 of these introduced species may invade natural habitats. Some invasive plant species have contributed to the decline of rare plants and altered rare habitats (Claudi et al. 2002). The United States now has an estimated 5,000 introduced plant species that grow in natural ecosystems, and some have displaced native species (Morse et al. 1995).

The British Columbia *Weed Control Act* designates 48 plant species as noxious; 21 are listed for all regions and the remaining 27 are regionally listed. Other invasive species – such as Scotch broom, purple loosestrife, Japanese knotweed, Himalayan blackberry and many others – lack this designation but nevertheless pose serious threats to native plant communities and ecosystem health, as well as to the economy and social interests.

It is anticipated that the ability of invasive plant species already established in British Columbia to invade and dominate new sites will increase with higher levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide as a result of global warming; cheatgrass is one example (Dukes and Mooney 1999). Global warming is also expected to allow new invasive species to successfully establish in British Columbia, and existing invasive species to reach more northerly latitudes – such as purple loosestrife (Environment Canada 2003) – and higher elevations.

## 4.2 How Invasive Plants Spread

Invasive plants spread in many ways. People enjoying various land- and water-based recreational activities can unknowingly spread invasive plant seeds, roots and pieces of reproductive foliage. Cyclists and ATV users on grasslands, campers moving among parks, guide outfitters packing in hay for their horses, and boaters launching their boats into a new lake are examples of how recreational users can unknowingly introduce invasive plants.



*ATV and other recreational users can unknowingly introduce invasive plants.*

Land clearing, logging cutblocks, gravel pits, utility lines, pipeline rights-of-way, transportation corridors and urban development create soil disturbances favourable to plant establishment. Excessive grazing by livestock and wildlife can also create an optimal environment for invasive plants to establish and expand their range. All of these activities create an ideal seedbed for invasive plants.

Invasive plants can also spread through seed mixes for forage, crops, land rehabilitation, erosion control, wildflowers and birds, which sometimes unintentionally include invasive plant seeds. Nurseries and mail order catalogues supply plants and seedlings to commercial and domestic gardeners, and increasingly rely on trans-provincial and international sales through mail and Internet orders. Imported horticultural species are seldom assessed for their invasive potential, and many have escaped their intended space in the garden to seriously impact natural habitats. In fact, 85 percent of the 235 woody plants invading natural areas of the United States were introduced for landscape purposes (Reichert 1998). Urbanization of lands is another potential source of invasive plants through landscaping.

The actions of livestock and wildlife, especially birds and ungulates, can also spread invasive plants. Seeds are eaten and then excreted into a new area, or carried in feathers, fur or hair. Many invasive plant species are well adapted for successful transport, either through their palatability to birds and animals, or their plant architecture. Once deposited, the seeds can germinate and grow. The species has then successfully expanded its geographic range.

### Weeds: "Slow-Moving Wildfire"

Invasive species "...cause a level of destruction to the environment and economy matched only by damage caused by floods, earthquakes, wildfire, hurricanes and mudslides." Bruce Babbitt, US Secretary of the Interior (1998).

Without efforts to contain their spread, noxious weeds generally increase their area an average of 14% annually. This produces exponential growth by doubling every five years!

Dalmatian toadflax (a noxious weed in British Columbia) expanded its area by 1,200 percent in just six years in Colorado (Beck 2001).

### Invasive plants...

- Outcompete native grasses and wildflowers, including rare and endangered species.

*Diffuse Knopweed*



.....

**invasive plants...**

Endanger public health and safety. They increase allergies and hay fever, and are potentially toxic to humans, pets, livestock and wildlife. They clog waterways used for swimming and boating, and reduce visibility in transportation corridors.

Increase costs for maintaining resources and public utilities.

Destroy natural habitat for birds, butterflies and other wildlife, domestic animals, and fish and other aquatic organisms.

.....

Invasive plants affect many aspects of our economy, communities and environment. The examples described below provide some introductory information about invasive plant impacts, and are not listed in any relative order of importance.

### 5.1 Human Health and Safety

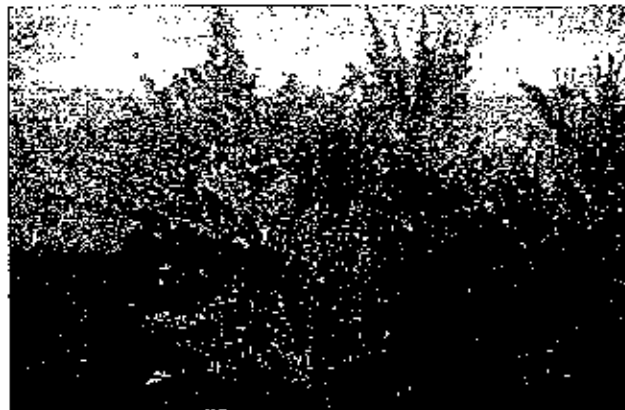
Invasive plants directly affect human health and safety in many ways. Giant hogweed produces painful skin burns; the large, sharp spines of gorse are unsafe to humans; and the toxic berries of bittersweet nightshade can cause poisoning. Some allergies, including hay fever, are caused by invasive species.

Human safety is also directly affected by the heavy growth of invasive plants when fast-growing species (and especially those with thorns) inhibit maintenance and safety inspections of pipelines. Invasive species also affect rights-of-way and transportation corridors when their rapid establishment and growth decrease access to equipment, reduce sightlines for drivers and animals, and increase the risk of accidents and collisions.

Invasive species, such as gorse, can increase the wildfire hazard because of the high oil content in their branches (Clements et al. 2001). Cheatgrass alters the natural fire regime by significantly reducing the intervals between fires (Billings 1948).

### 5.2 Environment and Biodiversity

After habitat loss, invasive species are the second biggest threat to species at risk in British Columbia, including plants and other wildlife. Ecosystems across the province are vulnerable, particularly Interior grasslands and dry forests, and drier coastal ecosystems. Associated riparian and wetland communities in these areas are also susceptible to the threat of invasive plants.



*Scotch Broom threatens ecosystems on Vancouver Island.*

*Purple Loosestrife*



Examples of negative environmental impacts caused by invasive plants are numerous. For example, the invasion of spotted knapweed in Glacier National Park eliminated seven rare and uncommon plant species in three years (Montana Weed Control Association 2003). Wetlands lose 50–100 percent of their native biomass due to purple loosestrife invasion. This displacement of food supply results in the matching displacement of many animals, such as muskrats, and many birds will not nest in loosestrife infestations (Thompson et al. 1987).

The replacement of native bunchgrass by spotted knapweed resulted in increased surface water runoff of 56 percent and soil loss of 192 percent in Montana compared to a non-infested site. The resultant loss of soil and the sedimentation of watercourses is devastating to water resources, fish spawning and wildlife habitat (Lacey et al. 1989).

Grey oak and associated ecosystems on southern and central Vancouver Island are under increasing threat by invasive species, most notably Scotch broom and gorse. An assessment of regional parks within the Capital Regional District in Victoria concluded that all parks were threatened by invasive plant species, 36 percent of them severely so (Fleming 1998).

Himalayan blackberry and Japanese knotweed have spread quickly within riparian vegetation alongside coastal streams and formed dense thickets that exclude native vegetation, reducing biodiversity and greatly altering natural ecosystems (Seilentin 2002). English ivy is an aggressive climbing vine that kills trees and threatens the structural integrity of tree species in both natural and urban environments. These and other invasive species can replace the understory vegetation and threaten biodiversity.

Plants deposited in ponds and lakes may also become invasive. Eurasian watermilfoil was accidentally deposited into Okanagan Lake. In other cases, people have introduced water lilies and yellow flag iris to improve a lake's attractiveness. Invasive plants also threaten the integrity of marine foreshore areas; for example, cordgrass has invaded tidal mudflats near Delta.

### 5.3 Agriculture

Invasive plants produce a wide range of detrimental impacts on the agriculture industry. Many act as hosts for insects and crop diseases. They reduce crop quality and market opportunities, and similarly decrease farm income by reducing yields by an average of 10–15 percent. Every year, British Columbian farmers and ranchers lose an estimated \$50 million in crop revenue, and then also pay several million dollars more for control measures, such as herbicides and cultivation (BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries 1998). A conservative estimate of the economic impact of invasive plants on Canadian agriculture is over \$1 billion annually (R. Cranston, BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, pers. comm., based on estimates by Swanton et al. 1993).

*Hound's-tongue is easily spread by burrs that attach themselves to animals.*



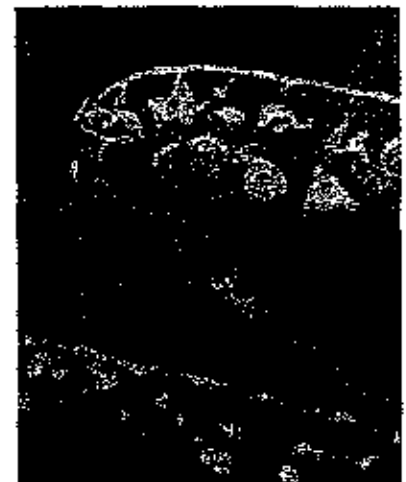
In one British Columbia study, grassland production in the southern Interior was reduced by 88 percent as a result of knapweed invasion (Watson and Renney 1974). Elk foraging in Montana was reduced by 98 percent on a rangeland dominated by spotted knapweed (Hakim 1979). Annual economic losses from knapweed species are estimated at US \$42 million in Montana, a state with an area of only 40 percent that of British Columbia. Most of BC's grasslands (about 1 million hectares) and the province's approximately 9 million ha of forested range are susceptible to knapweed invasion (BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, undated) and the associated economic losses.

Invasive plants also have the potential to seriously affect the provincial beef cattle industry. Its mainstay, the cow/calf sector, contributes about \$315 million in annual farm cash receipts from animal sales. The 6200 livestock owners (of whom 2500 are commercial) employ an additional 1000 people, and total investment in the sector exceeds \$4 billion. Government revenues include

### Invasive plants...

- Reduce the yield and quality of agricultural crops and natural forage, and the quality and price of marketable livestock.

*Hound's-tongue burred seeds*



.....  
 Invasive plants...

Accelerate soil erosion and stream sedimentation, consume critical water resources and negatively impact water quality.

Increase the wildfire hazard and interfere with the regeneration of forests.

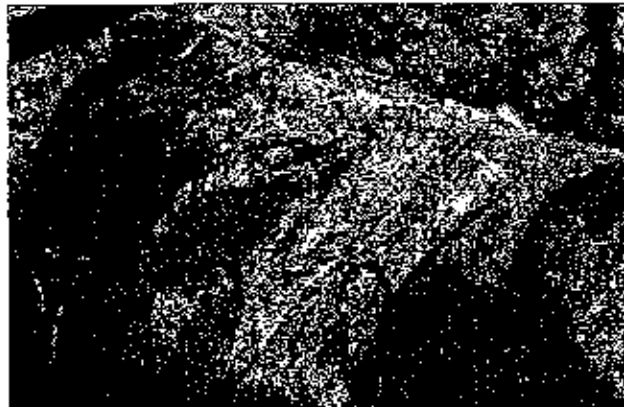
Act as carriers of disease and insects to beneficial plants

Decrease land values  
 .....

\$2 million in range fees and \$9 million in property taxes. On an annual basis, the value of beef production attributed solely to range forage (4–5 months on the range) exceeds \$60 million. The replacement value of the forage exceeds \$27 million. Failure to control weeds on rangeland could destroy at least 50 percent of this rangeland capacity (BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries 2003b).

#### 5.4 Animal Health

Livestock and wildlife are affected by some invasive plant species in serious ways. St. John's wort increases photosensitization of ungulates, making them more vulnerable to skin burns from solar radiation. Animals that consume **hound's-tongue** or **toxic ragwort** can experience cumulative liver damage from the toxic alkaloids in these species, and those that graze on **Russian knapweed** or **yellow starthistle** can be afflicted with a fatal nervous disorder. The seed heads of **burdock** and **hound's-tongue** can cause serious irritation around the eyes and ears of livestock and wildlife ungulate species when embedded, and can also reduce thermal insulation when matted in the animals' hair.



*St. John's-wort can cause serious health problems for cattle.*

#### 5.5 Forest Management

Gorse and cheatgrass increase the risk of wildfire (as described in section 5.1). Also, when woody invasive species, such as **Scotch broom**, replace native vegetation, they contribute to high-intensity fires from increased fuel accumulations. In harvested cutblocks, **Scotch broom** can interfere with **Douglas-fir** regeneration on southern Vancouver Island (Peterson and Prasad 1998) and **diffuse knapweed** can affect the survival and growth of planted conifers in the southern Interior (Powell et al. 1997). Other species, including **marsh thistle**, can bend the stems of young conifer seedlings through "snow-press" and permanently alter their form. When **Japanese knotweed** invades riparian sites and displaces native *Carex* sedges, its less fibrous rooting system contributes to soil erosion and stream sedimentation (T. Prather, Univ. of Idaho, pers. comm.). **Spotted knapweed** has a different above-ground form than the native species it displaces, which contributes to sheet erosion of soil because the soil surface is less protected from precipitation (Lacey et al. 1989).

#### 5.6 Socio-Economic

There are no specific data for British Columbia on the individual social or economic impacts of invasive plants. However, economic impacts generally create social impacts through their close linkage, and the effects of certain species in BC can be assumed to be generally similar as those in the northern United States.

The invasion of **leafy spurge** (a BC noxious weed) in four northern US states has resulted in annual economic losses of US \$129 million, equivalent to approximately 1,433 jobs (Westbrooks 1998). Leafy spurge infestations on Manitoba grazing lands have produced a net economic impact of \$16 million per year, equivalent to an estimated reduced herd size of 16,450 head, and an additional annual loss of \$5 million in reduced producer income and production expenditures. Secondary

*Leafy Spurge*



economic impacts on other business sectors were estimated at \$11 million per year (Leafy Spurge Stakeholders Group 1999).

Losses to invasive plants and control costs total about US \$5 billion per year in the United States in non-crop sectors (including golf courses, turf production and growing of ornamentals); highway and utility rights-of-way; and industrial, aquatic, forestry and other sites (Westbrooks 1998).

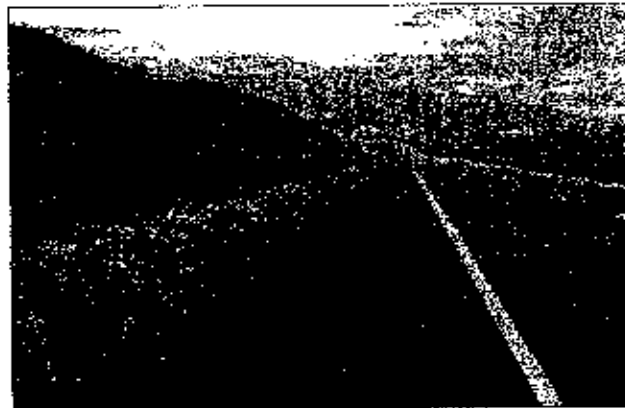
Land values in Manitoba are potentially reduced by over \$30 million due to leafy spurge (Leafy Spurge Stakeholders Group 1999). This invasive plant produced an 84 percent reduction in property value for one Oregon ranch, from US \$170,000 to \$27,500 (Westbrooks 1998). Furthermore, a \$2 million land transaction in Oregon was reduced by \$200,000 due to sulphur cinquefoil, another BC noxious weed species (BC Ministry of Forests, undated).

### 5.7 First Nations

First Nations are very concerned about the effects of invasive plants on their sustenance activities within their traditional territories, including hunting, fishing, and the gathering of food and medicinal plants. First Nations are also involved in ranching, farming and eco-tourism, businesses that are vulnerable to the socio-economic and environmental impacts of invasive plants. As well, the threat by invasive species to the health and availability of native plants and their associated spiritual values could inflict serious impacts on aboriginal peoples.

### 5.8 Tourism and Recreation

Invasive plants destroy the natural beauty of the landscape by replacing native plant communities with an aggressive single species. As well, the burrs, thorns and prickles of some invasive species cause physical discomfort and are a deterrent to recreational use on that land.



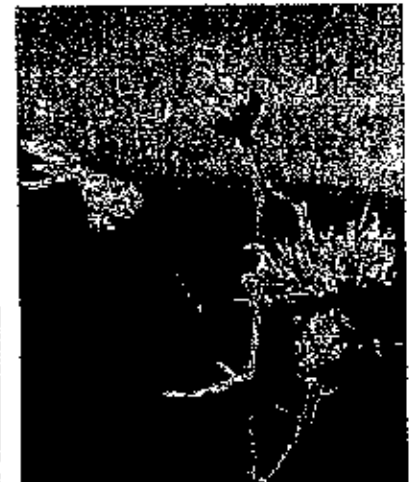
*Invasive plants can obstruct sightlines along highways.*

Data from the United States show that, in some areas, spotted knapweed has reduced available elk winter forage by 50–90 percent, which affects hunting opportunities and the value of these resources to local economies. However, when spotted knapweed was controlled on an elk winter range in Montana, there was a 266 percent increase in elk use, which also removed grazing pressure on adjoining private lands (Duncan 1997). North Dakota loses over US \$3.5 million annually in revenues from wildlife-related recreation due to non-native plant infestations (Westbrooks 1998). In Manitoba, the direct and secondary impacts on consumptive and non-consumptive wildlife recreation caused by leafy spurge were assessed at over \$2 million per year (Leafy Spurge Stakeholders Group 1999).

### Economic Benefits of Controlling Invasive Plants

Invasive plant control can be costly, but risk analyses have proven that treatment is often less expensive in the long run than is leaving infested areas untreated. For example, the cost of controlling purple loosestrife was found to be returned 27 times over in the retention of land and resource values (Office of Technology Assessments, United States Congress 1993). Control of poisonous tansy ragwort, an invasive plant listed in British Columbia as a noxious weed, was found in Oregon to return control costs 13 times over—in other words, for every dollar spent on control, the economic return was \$13 (Radde 1993).

*Spotted Knapweed*



### Legislated Responsibilities

The British Columbia Weed Control Act places a duty on all land occupiers to control noxious weeds growing on land occupied by that person. An "occupier" is a person who is in physical possession of the land or who is responsible for, and has control over, the condition of, the activities conducted on, and the persons allowed to enter or use the land. Provincial and local governments (regional districts and municipalities) may enforce the Act.

### 6.1 The Top Ten Challenges

Successful implementation of the strategy requires that all relevant agencies, organizations and user groups cooperate and contribute to addressing the "top ten" challenges for invasive plant management in British Columbia, as listed below:

#### The top ten most significant challenges to invasive plant management in British Columbia are the need to:

1. **Improve cooperation** among all orders of government, landowners and land users by establishing a body to provide province-wide leadership.
2. **Provide the necessary resources for provincial Crown lands** to increase the level of invasive plant management undertaken by the provincial government.
3. **Enact provincial legislation** to manage invasive species not classified as noxious weeds, and **federal legislation** to prevent the introduction of new invasive species to British Columbia.
4. **Improve compliance** with current legislation regarding the introduction, spread and control of invasive plants.
5. **Increase management of invasive plants on federal land**, with direct funding for First Nations reserve lands.
6. **Coordinate a system for the early detection and eradication** of new invasive species that arrive in the province, and monitor these population impacts and any expansion.
7. **Establish a comprehensive provincial inventory** of invasive plants in British Columbia.
8. **Ensure that all areas of the province implement a regional approach** to invasive plant management.
9. **Improve the management of invasive aquatic plant species** through the necessary technical expertise and funding resources.
10. **Identify and promote coordinated research** to increase knowledge and awareness about invasive plant biology, ecology and management options and ecosystem restoration.

### 6.2 Solutions

Resolving the ten main challenges will be enabled by the overall implementation of the invasive plant strategy. Detailed solutions for each challenge are provided below.

#### 6.2.1 Cooperation

*Challenge: Improve cooperation to provide province-wide leadership for invasive plant management.*

##### Solution:

1. Establish the Invasive Plant Council of British Columbia (described in Section 7).
2. Build "buy-in" to the Council to ensure its success, including the financial resources it requires to operate through a trust fund.
3. Monitor the Council's effectiveness and modify as required.

#### 6.2.2 Resources

*Challenge: Provide the necessary resources for invasive plant management on Crown lands by the provincial government.*

##### Solution:

1. Provide the necessary staff and funding resources to the provincial ministry programs involved in invasive plant management.
2. Establish cooperation among provincial agency programs for Crown land.
3. Explore coordinated, long-term funding solutions for invasive plant management.
4. Create funding opportunities to deal with specific areas receiving inadequate funding for invasive plant management, such as provincial parks and protected areas.

*Canada Thistle*



### 6.2.3 Legislation

*Challenge: Improve coverage of federal and provincial legislation for invasive plant species.*

**Solution:**

1. Review current federal and provincial acts relating to invasive plant management and recommend new or improved legislation as required.
2. Consider specific means to deal with invasive plants that affect species or ecosystems at risk.

### 6.2.4 Compliance

*Challenge: Improve compliance with current legislation.*

**Solution:**

1. Increase public awareness efforts, especially targeted to land occupiers and recreational user groups, to encourage compliance and help prevent the spread of invasive plants.
2. Monitor compliance to assess the effectiveness of improved public awareness and outreach and the need for enforcement measures.

### 6.2.5 Federal Lands

*Challenge: Increase invasive plants management on federal lands.*

**Solution:**

1. Increase funding from the federal government to manage invasive plants on First Nations reserve lands, military areas and national parks.
2. Encourage cooperation by First Nations bands and local weed committees for information exchange and other efficiencies.
3. Recognize through the treaty process that invasive plants on settlement lands within traditional territories must be managed.
4. Encourage cooperation between First Nations and their neighbours.

### 6.2.6 Prevention

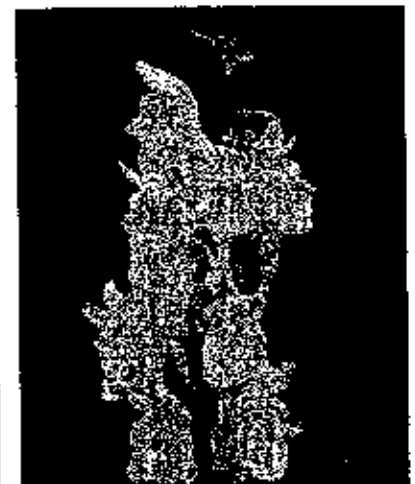
*Challenge: Coordinate the prevention, early detection, eradication and monitoring of invasive species.*

**Solution:**

1. Increase public awareness programs to help the public and land users understand the impacts that invasive plants pose, how human actions can transmit seeds and plant parts, and how to identify key species. Link with available Best Management Practices.
2. Implement a regionally based program for public reporting of the occurrence of invasive plants.
3. Target land user groups with information and land ethic principles to prevent the spread of invasive plants.
4. Involve the horticulture industry in preventing the spread of invasive plants by discouraging the commercial sale of invasive plants, and monitoring direct mail marketing and Internet sales of the seeds of invasive plants.
5. Establish local government or regional weed committees throughout the province.
6. Provide outreach services on invasive plant management methods to land occupiers.
7. Establish "Alert Programs" around high-risk areas for the presence of new invasive species.
8. Encourage new legislation or bylaws to address invasive plant management.

**Invasive plant management** is not a mandatory function of local governments in BC, which has resulted in incomplete geographic coverage of management activities in the province. However, invasive plant management programs are currently offered by ten Interior and northern regional districts. As well, there are four community-based programs — operating in the Southern Interior, Okanagan-Similkameen, Boundary and Central Kootenay areas — established by citizens concerned with addressing invasive plant management.

*Dalmatian Toadflax*





**6.2.7 Inventory**

*Challenge: Establish a comprehensive provincial inventory of invasive species.*

**Solution:**

1. Develop and maintain a provincial inventory database and mapping system for invasive plants that provides easy Internet access to all users.
2. Add a layer for invasive species to the provincial GIS database.
3. Monitor invasive species over time and their changes in distribution in the provincial inventory.

**6.2.8 Regional Coordination**

*Challenge: Implement a coordinated regional approach to invasive plant management throughout British Columbia.*

**Solution:**

1. Establish local government or regional weed committees to cover all of British Columbia.
2. Encourage continued voluntary participation by stakeholders in invasive plant management.
3. Encourage regional weed committees and local government programs to share issues and ideas, and coordinate management across jurisdictional boundaries through annual meetings and other means of communication.

**6.2.9 Aquatic Species**

*Challenge: Improve the management of invasive freshwater and marine plant species.*

**Solution:**

1. Increase programs, funding and the necessary technical expertise associated with invasive plant management within the provincial and federal government, including management, inventory, monitoring and public awareness.
2. Encourage partnerships and the necessary resources within and among the federal, provincial and local governments to address invasive freshwater and marine species.
3. Discourage the commercial sale of aquatic and wetlands invasive plant species.

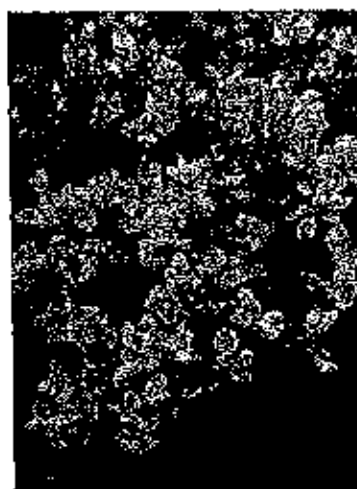
**6.2.10 Research**

*Challenge: Increase knowledge and awareness about invasive plants through coordinated research.*

**Solution:**

1. Identify research needs and promote research on invasive plant impacts and management, including plant biology and ecology, risk assessment for different management regimes, and control methods for individual species.

750



**7.1 Overview and Function**

Members of the strategy development group strongly recommend the establishment of a new Invasive Plant Council of British Columbia. The "Council" will serve a critical role in coordinating invasive plant management in British Columbia. It will operate through an inclusive and open membership composed of representatives from all orders of government, Crown agencies and relevant organizations, along with interested individuals (Figure 1). Rather than exercise legislated authority, members of the Council would use their collective influence to facilitate and achieve action. The Council will not oversee or conduct on-the-ground management activities.

The Council will be formally established as a legal, non-profit society with members and bylaws. Members of the Council would appoint a representative board of directors (described in section 7.2) and, through consensus, make recommendations for the necessary actions. As signatories to the Memorandum of Support, members will be recognized endorsers of the strategy. Formation and continuation of the Council requires stable, long-term, independent funding established in a trust fund (described in section 8.1).

The Council will receive input and information from its members and constituents on which it can raise and address strategic-level issues. It will host annual meetings and regularly communicate with members by newsletters and a website. The Council will influence various province-wide aspects of invasive plant management, such as employing peer pressure to achieve legislative compliance by land occupiers and land users, and ensuring that invasive plant management in British Columbia is addressed through a coordinated regional approach.

The Invasive Plant Council of British Columbia will coordinate invasive plant management in BC by using its collective influence through an inclusive membership.

The Council will provide province-wide coordination of invasive plant management. It will not be associated with operational activities.

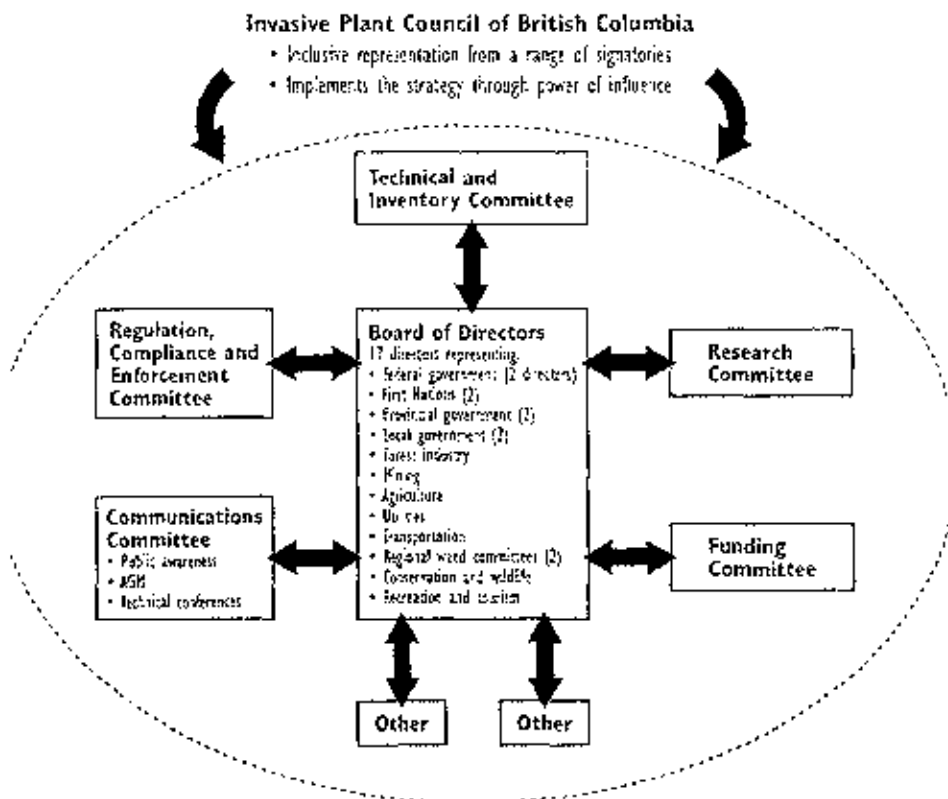
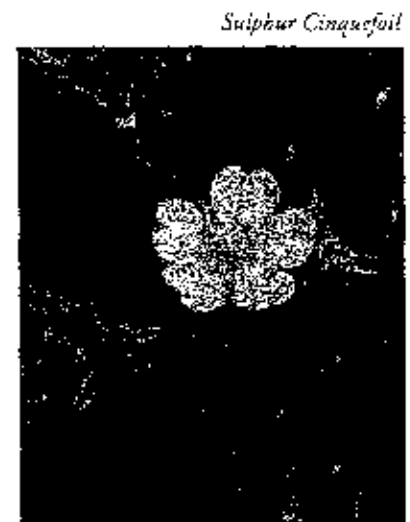


Figure 1. Proposed Organizational Structure for the Invasive Plant Council of British Columbia



.....  
 The Council's Board of Directors  
 will provide comprehensive  
 geographic and stakeholder  
 coverage for British Columbia.  
 .....

### 7.2 Board of Directors

The Council will provide direction to a diverse, multi-party board of directors consisting of a proposed total of 17 representatives as shown in Figure 1. Province-wide geographic membership is desired from the 12 categories. Board directors will be appointed by Council members from the respective categories for a designated period of time (i.e., the provincial government council members will appoint their two directors). Board members will be knowledgeable about invasive plants and dedicated to making a positive strategic influence on invasive plant management. Five independent seats within the industry category are also proposed to adequately cover the forestry, mining, agriculture, utilities and transportation sectors to reflect their degree of activity in operational control treatments. As well, local representation by local government and regional weed committees needs to be strong, and should be addressed with representatives from both northern and southern regions of British Columbia.

The board of directors will make decisions on behalf of the Council based on the direction it receives, and it will aim to implement the Council's direction by consensus. The board will additionally establish working groups (sub-committees) on key topics like research and public awareness, and will link with the federal and provincial governments and other key agencies and strategic groups. The working groups should also include members at large who can contribute technical knowledge and experience.

### 7.3 Roles and Responsibilities

The specific roles and responsibilities of the Invasive Plant Council of British Columbia are to be determined. It is expected that the Council will:

1. Coordinate invasive plant management programs in British Columbia by:
  - Recommending changes in legislation and Best Management Practices to improve invasive plant management;
  - Helping to define roles and reporting mechanisms for a range of groups, including the public; and
  - Conducting gap analysis for local delivery agents and lands not addressed, using a proactive action plan for key issues in sensitive areas and developing emergency preparedness plans, as required.
2. Develop a process, in cooperation with local government and regional weed committees, to determine a minimum acceptable level of invasive plant management in British Columbia that will meet the strategy's goal.
3. Produce a list of invasive plant species requiring management in British Columbia, and over time, identify key invasive plant species from different Ministry priorities, key habitats at risk, habitats identified through the Species at Risk process and habitats with legislated priority, then recommend actions for ecosystem restoration and recently discovered species.
4. Coordinate education and information to meet the strategy's goal by:
  - Implementing a strong provincial-level invasive plant public awareness program that will complement and support similar programs for regional districts, municipalities and regional invasive plant programs;
  - Coordinating all information management relating to invasive plants in BC, including developing and maintaining a central website and establishing an information clearing house for publication distribution; and
  - Enabling the sharing of technical information, such as by organizing and hosting annual conferences, symposia and workshops.

*Adding Thistle*



5. Promote the establishment and maintenance of a centralized, coordinated and current invasive plant inventory that is accessible and available to users and the public, with mapping capability and an online reporting system for invasive plant management.
6. Address early detection and eradication of outbreaks of invasive plants by:
  - Serving as a catalyst or support mechanism for action on crisis management, without duplicating local actions;
  - Developing and implementing a protocol to keep ecosystems free of invasive plants through cooperation by all agencies;
  - Providing special funding to address new outbreaks of invasive plants; and
  - Developing early detection and risk assessment strategies for new invasive plant species in British Columbia, including producing a "provincial invaders list" for key species in areas of concern and identifying levels of action needed.
7. Manage the proposed trust fund, through the board of directors, to:
  - Receive applications and funding proposals from a variety of parties to conduct public awareness campaigns, research projects and other relevant activities; and
  - Implement a provincial prioritization mechanism for making decisions on spending limited funds.
8. Identify research needs and priorities for the management of invasive plants.
9. Monitor the strategy's effectiveness towards improved invasive plant management in British Columbia by:
  - Producing a provincial "report card" on the state of invasive plant management and how agencies are performing; and
  - Adapting the strategy as required, based on monitoring results and new knowledge.

*Oxeye Daisy*



.....

he trust fund will be established with multi-party funding at arms length from government to coordinate invasive plant management in BC. The trust fund will not be used for operational invasive plant management activities.

.....

Effective legislation is required to achieve the strategy's goal of protecting the environment and minimizing the negative social and economic impacts caused by invasive plants.

.....

The new Invasive Plant Council of British Columbia will have five key preliminary actions to undertake. The Council will need to focus its efforts to help ensure there is sufficient funding both for operational management and province-wide coordination, recommend changes to strengthen legislation, improve compliance with current and new legislation, communicate and coordinate among its membership, and increase public awareness and outreach regarding invasive plant management.

### 8.1 Help Ensure Sufficient Funding

Sufficient funding for invasive plant management in British Columbia is required for two main purposes: (1) to carry out operational management programs, including control treatments, and (2) to provide province-wide coordination by the Invasive Plant Council. The Council will use its collective influence to help ensure there is sufficient funding for operational management of invasive plants at the local level. Additional funds are required to carry out the Council's new province-wide coordination role, which will be best achieved through the establishment and management of a new multi-party trust fund. This is expected to be a more cost-effective process overall for invasive plant management.

Funding the Council's activities through the trust fund will not draw from funds for operational invasive plant management. The purpose of the trust fund will be to finance coordination of invasive plant management in British Columbia, the identification and promotion of research priorities, public awareness and outreach programs, and other related Council functions and activities. The trust fund would be managed and administered at arms length from government, and not subject to the provincial government's annual budgeting process. The provision of financial support is not only critical for the Council's functions, but is also expected to help develop "buy-in" to the strategy and the Council's role.

Contributions to the trust fund would be voluntary. Contributors could include the federal and provincial governments, industry, non-government organizations and research groups. A more complete overview of possible contributors is provided in the list of potential signatories to the strategy's Memorandum of Support in Section 13.

The Council will consider provincial priorities in its allocation of funding from the trust fund; however, it will also need to recognize regional priorities and their significance to the province. Independent management of the trust fund is required for the secure continuation of, and confidence in, the Council and its mandate.

### 8.2 Recommend Legislative Changes

Effective legislation for invasive plant management is a foundation for the Council's fulfillment of its roles and responsibilities and the strategy's overall success. To minimize threats to British Columbia's environment and economy and to public health, the Council will appoint a working group (Regulation, Compliance and Enforcement) to review federal and provincial legislation relating to invasive alien plant management and make recommendations for changes.

In reviewing all relevant federal and provincial Acts (listed in section 12), the Regulation, Compliance and Enforcement working group may wish to consider:

- The effectiveness of current federal and provincial legislation in achieving proactive management of invasive plants on all federal lands, provincial Crown lands and private land, including preventing the importation of potentially invasive species;
- The role of local government and invasive plant control under section 9 of the provincial *Weed Control Act*, and in municipal and regional district bylaws;
- The extent and ability of current legislation to effectively address all invasive plants (not only those legislated as noxious weeds);
- Methods of cost recovery for invasive plant management;
- The role of land users in preventing new outbreaks and the spread of invasive plants; and

Image: Hawkweed



- Effective ways to present and implement Best Management Practices for invasive plants (for example, linking with the development and promotion of Best Management Practices for recreational activities in grasslands).

### 8.3 Aim for Improved Compliance

Many invasive plant program managers and technical specialists find that increasing awareness of the impacts of invasive plants is the best way to achieve compliance with legislation by a wide range of stakeholders. Compliance with all legislation, both current and new, is a foundation of this strategy and is based on improving public awareness and understanding of the impacts of invasive plants.

Compliance will be monitored by the Council, in combination with its efforts to improve public awareness and outreach (described in section 8.5) for evaluating changes in compliance over time. This is expected to create a more cooperative and supportive environment for successful invasive plant management.

### 8.4 Enhance Communication and Coordination

Communication and coordination of this strategy will be focused on the broad, inclusive membership of the provincial Invasive Plant Council. The Council will communicate with its members through an annual meeting and regular e-mail updates. This will initiate a process for members to share new information and Council business with their staff, members and constituents. The Council's work will emphasize the prevention of invasive plant establishment and spread. Regional programs will build on those prevention efforts and supplement them with the necessary operational work to control invasive plants.

### 8.5 Increase Public Awareness and Outreach

Among its many important roles and responsibilities, the Invasive Plant Council will lead a coordinated public awareness and outreach program across the province. This is a critical foundation of the strategy. Public awareness will employ a comprehensive approach that addresses all land users and ends the issue of "weeds" as primarily an agricultural issue.

Increasing public awareness of the impacts of invasive plants will include drawing on the potential influence of the Council and its members. The program will communicate key messages to user groups and the public, based on local technical needs and the most effective delivery methods. Public awareness will build on local programs using consistent and complementary messages to all age groups. Programs and activities will focus on preventing invasive plant infestations, minimizing the spread of outbreaks, presenting methods of control and restoring ecosystems. Outreach (extension) services will continue to be provided at the local level by knowledgeable individuals who can assist with plant identification, confirmation of recent outbreaks and options for site-specific treatments.

The Council's board of directors may wish to establish a working group to oversee public awareness at the province-wide level. Duplication of local efforts must be avoided. As well, information and outreach to children through school programs and nature activities can help them alert their families in the identification of invasive species. Monitoring the results of public awareness efforts will require that a benchmark study first be conducted to evaluate current programs.

Public awareness and outreach may include setting up and maintaining a central website, implementing a television campaign, creating an invasive plants mascot, adding invasive plant management to the science and environmental school curriculum, and establishing a toll-free number to report new outbreaks. Engaging the media may be particularly helpful to relay key messages to the public about the impacts and management of invasive plants. Local stewardship groups will be encouraged to help implement invasive plant management in their ecosystem restoration programs and projects.

Implementing the invasive plant strategy will emphasize compliance with existing and new legislation.

Communication and coordination among the Council's inclusive membership will be one of the Council's important functions.

Public awareness is a key tool for improving British Columbians' awareness to minimize the impacts of invasive plants.

*Giant Hogweed*



Implementation of the strategy will involve individual and coordinated roles and responsibilities for all Memorandum of Support signatories. As discussed earlier, under the strategy a new Invasive Plant Council of British Columbia will be established to conduct all coordination, planning, prioritizing and education for invasive plant management. The Council will exist as a legal, non-profit society with members and bylaws, and will be guided by a board of directors.

The federal government will fulfill its role in managing invasive plants on all federal lands, such as Indian Reserves, military areas and national parks. Research on invasive plant bio-control and management will be another important function.

The strategy will also encourage First Nations to play a larger role in the management of invasive plants on reserve lands. To realize this, First Nations will work closely with the federal, provincial and local governments, and participate directly with local government and regional weed committees.

The provincial government is the most significant land occupier of provincial Crown land, and several ministries hold responsibility for Crown land management and tenures. The provincial government will oversee all relevant legislation and will manage invasive plants on Crown land, as well as provide technical expertise on key species in British Columbia.

Regional management of invasive plants will be delivered through a cooperative approach at the local level, involving local governments and regional weed committees, to coordinate delivery of operational invasive plant management programs.

Land occupiers, as defined under the provincial *Weed Control Act*, will continue to be responsible for the control of noxious weeds on their land. Fulfilling this requirement will be achieved through improved public awareness and outreach to prevent the establishment of all invasive plant species and provide options for management.

Industry will continue to conduct management activities, including voluntary control of known outbreaks. Industry representatives will work with multi-jurisdictional initiatives to develop management programs that cover all land uses in an area. The numerous industrial sectors affiliated with land management will be relied on to influence their employees and clients about the importance of invasive plant management.

Non-government organizations will provide vital support and far-reaching influence about invasive plant management, both within the Council and to their respective members.

The academic and research community will provide essential technical support by developing new management strategies using sound integrated vegetation management principles. Research scientists will be relied on for their contributions to advancing control methods.

*ance Knotweed*



Specific functions and responsibilities for each category are described below.

## 9.1 Federal Government

### 9.1.1 Overview and Function

The federal government encompasses a range of agencies involved in invasive plant management in Canada. Federal involvement includes legislation, environmental protection, research, and the funding and delivery of control treatments on federal lands. Federal departments must be coordinated to deliver a cohesive national approach to invasive plant management for the benefit of all provinces, including British Columbia. A federal inter-agency coordination committee (or other mechanism) should be established to represent and coordinate the various federal departments involved in invasive plant management.

### 9.1.2 Roles and Responsibilities

The expected roles and responsibilities of the federal government under the strategy are to:

1. Conduct and fund operational invasive plant management on federal lands, such as Indian Reserve lands, military areas and national parks, to a level that achieves the strategy's goal.
2. Identify research priorities and conduct invasive plant management research.
3. Maintain and update all relevant national legislation, as required.
4. Lead the development and delivery of new bio-control agents.
5. Enforce prevention of the importation of invasive plants in seed, forage and nursery stock.
6. Fund and deliver coordination of the federal role on invasive plant management within the federal government and for the provinces and territories.
7. Contribute funding to the Council.
8. Contribute technical knowledge and materials for public awareness and outreach.

## 9.2 First Nations

### 9.2.1 Overview and Function

First Nations play an important role in invasive plant management because of the need to control invasive plants on reserve lands and traditional territories. Reserve lands can often harbour invasive plants, but there is limited or no funding for management of these plants. Additionally, improved awareness and new operational programs will provide opportunities to develop local First Nations workforces as a means of economic development.

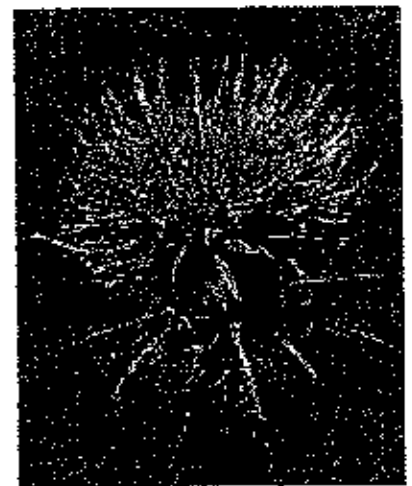
### 9.2.2 Roles and Responsibilities

The expected roles and responsibilities for First Nations under the invasive plant strategy are to:

1. Conduct invasive plant management on Indian Reserve lands to a level that achieves the strategy's goal, and work with community-based weed committees within First Nations traditional territories.
2. Contribute treatment data and information on invasive plant outbreaks to the inventory database.
3. Develop effective integrated invasive plant management strategies.
4. Liaise with, and provide information to, land managers and regional weed committees regarding invasive plant management.
5. Increase awareness with Band members of invasive plants and their impacts.
6. Encourage the establishment of an invasive plant committee for each Band.

*Yellow Starchistle*

*Photo: Dr. Ben Roche, Washington State University*





### 9.3 Provincial Government

#### 9.3.1 Overview and Function

The provincial government is responsible for the management of British Columbia's vast area of Crown lands, including forests, grasslands and transportation corridors. Several government ministries have overlapping responsibilities for tenures and resource management on Crown land.

#### 9.3.2 Roles and Responsibilities

The expected roles and responsibilities for the provincial government under the strategy are to:

1. Maintain and update relevant legislation and regulations.
2. Develop effective integrated invasive plant management strategies.
3. Conduct invasive plant management on Crown lands to a level that achieves the strategy's goal.
4. Determine the role of each provincial ministry for invasive plant management.
5. Monitor and ensure the enforcement of provincial legislation.
6. Ensure the maintenance of an accurate invasive plant inventory and database that are accessible to users and the public, both for data entry and retrieval.
7. Provide technical expertise to local government, regional weed committees and the public on priority (key) species, prescriptions, treatment options (Best Management Practices), data collection, management and mapping.
8. Assist with funding for local programs by local governments and regional weed committees.
9. Contribute funding to the Council.
10. Encourage the development of a functioning weed committee or local program in every region of the province.
11. Identify research needs and priorities with the federal government and provincial universities.
12. Contribute technical knowledge and materials for public awareness and outreach.

### 9.4 Local Government

#### 9.4.1 Overview and Function

Local government includes regional districts and municipalities responsible for invasive plant management on lands it occupies. Some local governments conduct invasive plant management programs that vary according to direction of the regional district board or municipal council. Activities of local government could include operating or participating on weed committees, education and awareness programs, inventory and monitoring, and enforcing weed control where deemed necessary.

#### 9.4.2 Roles and Responsibilities

The expected roles and responsibilities of local government under the strategy are to:

1. Conduct invasive plant management on the land it occupies to a level that achieves the strategy's goal.
2. Operate, encourage the establishment of, or participate on a multi-sector weed committee to coordinate invasive plant management by stakeholders at the local level.
3. Encourage private landowners to comply with provincial legislation.
4. Provide leadership and support for public education at the local level. This could include undertaking awareness programs or supporting education programs that benefit local communities.
5. Encourage implementation of prevention strategies.
6. Deliver on-the-ground invasive plant management programs on private land, at the direction of the regional district board or municipal council, as appropriate.

*Id. Scabiosa*



## 9.5 Regional Weed Committees

### 9.5.1 Overview and Function

For the purposes of this strategy, "regional weed committee" refers to community-based, or regional, weed committees operating as societies or informal groups. They are usually composed of a range of stakeholders from provincial government agencies, local governments, community interest groups and industry, along with affiliated individuals, all of whom cooperate to improve invasive plant management within the defined area. In addition to planning and coordinating treatments, regional weed committees focus on prevention, education and awareness, inventory and monitoring. Coordination between weed committees is facilitated by annual meetings to share information and coordinate activities across jurisdictional boundaries.

### 9.5.2 Roles and Responsibilities

The expected roles and responsibilities of regional weed committees under the strategy are to:

1. Support delivery of invasive plant management to a level that achieves the strategy's goal.
2. Operate as a multi-sector committee to coordinate local invasive plant management by stakeholders.
3. Coordinate delivery of operational control programs, the "on-the-ground" work, with available resources and encourage implementation of prevention strategies by all stakeholders.
4. Provide outreach services for public education and awareness and respond to requests for technical information.
5. Encourage or provide complete and accurate database entry on invasive plant outbreaks and control treatments.
6. Encourage compliance with provincial legislation pertaining to invasive plants.
7. Monitor effectiveness of local invasive plant management.
8. Work as a catalyst to ensure that local contractors are available for operational work.

## 9.6 Land Occupier

### 9.6.1 Overview and Function

Under the *Weed Control Act*, land occupier refers to a person who is in physical possession of land, premises or property, or who is responsible for – and has control over – the condition of, the activities conducted on, and the persons allowed to enter or use, land, premises or property. The land occupier may be a municipality or government. Land occupiers are responsible for the management of defined noxious weeds on their land.

### 9.6.2 Roles and Responsibilities

The primary responsibility of land occupiers is to control legislated noxious weeds. Land occupiers will also be encouraged and supported to conduct invasive plant management, as required, to a level that achieves the strategy's goal.

## 9.7 Industry

### 9.7.1 Overview and Function

The industry category covers a wide range of commercial users in British Columbia affiliated with invasive plant management, including the agriculture, forestry and mining sectors; utilities and transportation; and commercial recreation and guide outfitters.

### 9.7.2 Roles and Responsibilities

Under the invasive plant strategy, the expected roles and responsibilities for industry are to:

*Burdock*



1. Conduct invasive plant management to a level that achieves the strategy's goal.
2. Support local government and regional weed committees by:
  - Cooperating in public awareness and education activities;
  - Contributing technical expertise in the preparation of information resources, and
  - Assisting with the distribution of information resources to employees, contractors and clients.
3. Influence employees, contractors and clients to manage invasive plants.
4. Participate, where possible, on local government or regional weed committees.
5. Contribute to the trust fund.

## 9.8 Non-Government Organizations

### 9.8.1 Overview and Function

Non-government organizations (NGOs) play an important role in invasive plant management because they encompass a wide range of resource management categories, mandates and land-based user groups. Individual members of NGOs represent a diverse number of disciplines and they are often able to contribute and influence in many constructive ways.

### 9.8.2 Roles and Responsibilities

The expected roles and responsibilities for NGOs under the strategy are to:

1. Support regional programs and local government by:
  - Cooperating in public awareness and education activities;
  - Contributing technical expertise in the preparation of information resources; and
  - Assisting with the distribution of information resources to members and clients.
2. Influence members and clients to implement invasive plant management.
3. Participate, where possible, on local government and regional weed committees.
4. Contribute to the trust fund.

## 9.9 Academia and Research Organizations

### 9.9.1 Overview and Function

Academia and research organizations include universities, other post-secondary institutions and research organizations. This category covers researchers who contribute to invasive plant management, including those involved in bio-control businesses. This scientific expertise will continue to play a critical role in invasive plant management by making available the most effective control strategies.

### 9.9.2 Roles and Responsibilities

The expected roles and responsibilities for academia and research organizations under the strategy are to:

1. Conduct research on invasive plant management techniques.
2. Conduct risk assessment to analyze the costs and benefits of different management regimes and control methods for individual plant species.
3. Recommend changes to invasive plant management strategies and practices based on new information and knowledge derived from research.
4. Share staff expertise through teaching at post-secondary institutions, adult education courses, and technical workshops and courses.
5. Develop ecosystem restoration methodologies to rehabilitate areas infested with invasive plants.

retail



The implementation process for the invasive plant strategy is detailed below:

1. Complete the strategy by February, 2004.
2. Present the strategy to federal, provincial and local governments.
3. Build cooperation and support for the strategy, including confirming signatories to the Memorandum of Support.
4. Establish the Invasive Plant Council and develop a short-term action plan for its five preliminary key actions:
  - Help ensure sufficient funding both for province-wide coordination and operational management;
  - Recommend changes to strengthen legislation;
  - Improve compliance with current and new legislation;
  - Communicate and coordinate among its membership; and
  - Increase public awareness and outreach.
5. Obtain funding by April 2004 to initiate strategy implementation.
6. Review the Memorandum of Support in early 2005.
7. Release the strategy's first "report card" in early 2005.
8. By 2005, identify key invasive plant species from different Ministry priorities, key habitats at risk, habitats identified through the Species at Risk process, habitats with legislated priority, and actions for new species recently discovered.

Once implemented, the strategy must be monitored to assess its effectiveness in improving the management of invasive plants, and to determine if further changes are required. Implementation of the strategy will be monitored for achievement of commitments at all levels. Monitoring will require defined indicators to measure progress, including surveys with benchmarks established for 2003 on which progress can be measured.

Monitoring will be at two levels. Firstly, it will be conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy's implementation through the Council, the federal and provincial governments, and regional weed committees. This will additionally include the effectiveness of different measures to increase public awareness of invasive plants. Secondly, monitoring will be conducted to find ways to improve the strategy itself.

The Council would set the targets and indicators for such strategy components as public awareness, invasive plant control, and key invasive plant species and habitats, and then monitor to assess progress and the strategy's effectiveness. Monitoring of public awareness will require that strategy signatories and other members of the Council know if the publications, posters and other measures produced to date have been effective, or if the approaches used to convey important messages about invasive plants should be modified.

Strategy monitoring results could be presented in a "report card" format to simplify the communication of progress on invasive plant management. The report card would assess different components of invasive plant management, such as the functioning of the Council, security of funding, number of new outbreaks, and overall progress in improving invasive plant management. All reporting will be based on the strategy's goal and objectives.

*Goat's Beard*



## REFERENCES

- BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries. 1998. Integrated weed management—an introductory manual.
- BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries. 2003a. Available at <[www.agf.gov.bc.ca/cropprot/ipm.htm](http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/cropprot/ipm.htm)>.
- BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries. 2003b. Internal report.
- BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries. Undated. Knapweed—its cost to British Columbia. Extension brochure.
- BC Ministry of Forests. Undated. Noxious weeds—a black mark on biodiversity. Nelson Region, Cranbrook District. Available at <[www.fof.gov.bc.ca/nelson/district/cranbrk/Range/Noxious%20Weeds.htm](http://www.fof.gov.bc.ca/nelson/district/cranbrk/Range/Noxious%20Weeds.htm)>.
- BC Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection. 2003. Definition of integrated pest management. Available at <[wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/epd/epdipa/ipmp/IPMdefn.htm](http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/epd/epdipa/ipmp/IPMdefn.htm)>.
- Berk, K.G., 2001. Biology and management of the roadflaxes. Colorado State Cooperative Extension Service. July.
- Billings, W. D. 1948. Preliminary notes on fire succession in the sagebrush zone of western Nevada. *Bull. of the Ecol. Society of America*. 29:30.
- Convention on Biological Diversity. 2002. Ecosystem approach. Available at <[www.biodiv.org/programmes/crosscutting/ecosystem/](http://www.biodiv.org/programmes/crosscutting/ecosystem/)>.
- Claudi, R., Nante, P. and E. Muckle-Jeffs (eds). 2002. Alien invaders in Canada's waters, wetlands, and forests. Nat. Res. Canada, Can. For. Serv., Ottawa, 320 pp.
- Clements, D.R., D. J. Peterson and R. Prasad. 2001. The biology of Canadian weeds. 112. *Ulex europaeus* L. *Can. J. Plant Sci.* 81:325-337.
- Dukes, J.S. and H.A. Mooney. 1999. Does global change increase the success of biological invaders? *TREE*. Vol. 14(4): pp 135-139.
- Duncan, C. 1997. Environmental benefits of weed management. *Techline*, July. p. 5-10. Available at <[www.fs.fed.us/r4/boise/mgmt/weeds/Documents/projects/enviben.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/boise/mgmt/weeds/Documents/projects/enviben.pdf)>.
- Environment Canada. 2003. Wetlands and climate change. Available at <[www.ec.gc.ca/water/en/nature/wetland/e\\_clim.htm](http://www.ec.gc.ca/water/en/nature/wetland/e_clim.htm)>.
- Fleming, T. 1998. The state of regional parks: an ecological perspective. Prepared for Capital Regional District Parks. Victoria, BC.
- Hakini, S.F.A. 1979. Range condition on Three Mile Game Range in western Montana. MS thesis. Univ. of Montana, Missoula, MT. 62 pp.
- Morse, L., J. Kartesz and L. Kuttner. 1995. Native vascular plants. In: Laro, E., G. Farris, C. Puckett, R. Doran and M. Mac (eds.) *Our living resources: a report to the nation on the distribution, abundance, and health of US plants, animals, and ecosystems*. Wash. DC: US Dept. of the Interior, Nat. Biol. Service. p. 205-209.
- Lacey, J., C. Marlow and J. Lane. 1989. Influence of spotted knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*) on surface runoff and sediment yield. *Weed Technology*. Vol. 3, Issue 4.
- Leafy Spurge Stakeholders Group. 1999. Impact assessment working group. Manitoba. Exec. summ.
- Montana Weed Control Association. 2003. Available at <[www.mtweed.org/Impacts/General/general.html](http://www.mtweed.org/Impacts/General/general.html)>.
- Office of Technology Assessments, United States Congress. 1993. Harmful non-indigenous species in the United States.
- Peterson, D. and R. Prasad. 1998. The biology of Canadian weeds, 109. *Cytisus scoparius*. *Can. J. Plant Sci.* 78:497-504.
- Powell, G., B. Wikeem, A. Sturko and J. Boatrig. 1997. Knapweed growth and effect on conifers on a montane forest. *Can. J. For. Res.* 27:1427-1433.
- Radtke, H. 1993. An economic evaluation of biological control of tansy ragwort. Tech. Rep. Oregon Dept. of Agriculture.
- Reichert, S. Reducing the spread of invasive plants. *Hortus West*. Vol. 9, Issue 1:pp. 22-24.
- Selcutin, E. 2002. Invasive alien species removal and habitat restoration in the wetlands and estuaries of the Comox Valley, 2002. Comox Valley Naturalists Society. Available at <[www.comoxvalleynaturalist.bc.ca/eruetext.html](http://www.comoxvalleynaturalist.bc.ca/eruetext.html)>.
- Swanton, C.J., Harker, K.N. and R.L. Anderson. 1993. Crop losses due to weeds in Canada. *Weed Technology*. Vol 7. p. 537-542.
- Thompson, D. Q., Stuckey, R. L. and E. B. Thompson. 1987. Spread, impact, and control of purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) in North American wetlands. US Fish and Wildlife Service. 55 pp. Jamestown, ND: Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center Home Page. Available at <[www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resources/1999/loosstrif/loosstrf.htm](http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resources/1999/loosstrif/loosstrf.htm) (Version 04JUN99)>.
- US Fish and Wildlife Service. 2003. Ecosystem approach. Available at <<http://ecosystems.fws.gov>>.
- Watson, A.K. and A.J. Renney 1974. The biology of Canadian weeds. 6. *Centaurea diffusa* and *C. maculosa*. *Can. J. Plant Sci.* 54:687-701.
- Westbrooks, R. 1998. Invasive plants, changing the landscape of America: Fact book. Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds. Washington, DC. 109 pp.
- World Resources Institute. 2000. Available at <[www.wri.org/wr2000/index.html](http://www.wri.org/wr2000/index.html)>.

### 12.1 Federal

The purpose of the *Plant Protection Act* is to protect plant life and the agricultural and forestry sectors of the Canadian economy by preventing the importation, exportation and spread of pests, and by controlling or eradicating pests in Canada.

Source: <<http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/P-14.8/index.html>>

The *Seeds Act* stipulates that seed imported into, or exported from, Canada must conform to the prescribed standard and be marked, packed and accurately labeled.

Source: <<http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/S-8/index.html>>

The *Species at Risk Act* was recently enacted to prevent wildlife from becoming extinct in Canada; to provide for wildlife species that are extirpated, endangered or threatened as a result of human activity; and to manage species of special concern to prevent them from becoming endangered or threatened.

Source: <[www.sararegistry.gc.ca/the\\_act/SARA\\_guide\\_e.pdf](http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/the_act/SARA_guide_e.pdf)>

The *Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act* was created to control international trade and inter-provincial transport in wild animals and plants, their parts and products to better conserve Canadian and foreign species, and to protect Canadian ecosystems from the introduction of harmful wild species. The Act prohibits the importation of wildlife taken illegally from another country, and implements Canada's obligations under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Source: <[www.ec.gc.ca/ErvingRegs/ENR/SearchDetail.cfm?ntAcc=1014](http://www.ec.gc.ca/ErvingRegs/ENR/SearchDetail.cfm?ntAcc=1014)>

### 12.2 Provincial

The *Weed Control Act* places a duty on all land occupiers to control the noxious weed species listed in the accompanying regulations. British Columbia has 48 plant species classified as noxious. These must not be transported to, or seeded in, areas where they are not already established. The Act provides for the appointment of inspectors to ensure compliance and, failing that, for a method by which they can control weeds with costs recovered from the occupier. Weed Control Committees may be established by municipal councils to administer the Act within a municipality. Committees report to the municipal councils and to the Minister.

Source: <[www.agf.gov.bc.ca/ministry/legsum/WCON.sum](http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/ministry/legsum/WCON.sum)>

The *Plant Protection Act* provides for the prevention of the spread of pests destructive to plants in British Columbia, including the powers of inspectors and the authority to establish quarantine areas.

Source: <[www.agf.gov.bc.ca/ministry/legsum/PPRO.sum](http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/ministry/legsum/PPRO.sum)>

The *Forest and Range Practices Act* brings in the application of a results-based system for the management of forest and range resources. It replaces the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act* and requires that forest and range practices prevent the introduction or spread of invasive plants.

Source: <[www.for.gov.bc.ca/code/](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/code/)>

The *Integrated Pest Management Act* replaces the *Pesticide Control Act* regarding the application of pesticides for commercial and industrial use on all public land and on private land used for forestry, utilities, transportation and pipelines. The Act requires that all reasonable non-pesticide treatments must be evaluated and the use of pesticides justified before being used.

Source: <<http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/epd/epdpa/ipmup/pestact/index.html>>

Under the *Pipeline Act*, companies that construct or operate pipelines to transport oil, gas or solids must, on its land adjacent to its pipeline, annually root out and destroy thistles and noxious weeds before they have matured to seed.

Source: <[http://www.qp.gov.bc.ca/statreg/stat/P/96364\\_01.htm#section38](http://www.qp.gov.bc.ca/statreg/stat/P/96364_01.htm#section38)>

Potential signatories of the *Invasive Plant Strategy for British Columbia*, by category, include, but are not limited to:

Category	Potential Signatory
Federal Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada</li> <li>• Canadian Food Inspection Agency</li> <li>• Department of National Defence</li> <li>• Environment Canada</li> <li>• Fisheries and Oceans Canada</li> <li>• Indian and Northern Affairs Canada</li> <li>• Natural Resources Canada</li> <li>• Parks Canada</li> <li>• Western Economic Diversification Canada</li> </ul>
First Nations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Nations Agricultural Association</li> <li>• First Nations Summit and affiliated bands and tribal councils</li> <li>• Independent bands</li> <li>• Individual treaties (e.g., Nisga'a, Douglas, Treaty 8)</li> <li>• Union of BC Indian Chiefs and affiliated bands and tribal councils</li> </ul>
Provincial Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries</li> <li>• BC Ministry of Energy and Mines</li> <li>• BC Ministry of Forests</li> <li>• BC Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management</li> <li>• BC Ministry of Transportation</li> <li>• BC Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection</li> <li>• Land and Water BC Inc</li> </ul>
Local Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities</li> <li>• Individual municipalities</li> <li>• Individual regional districts</li> <li>• Regional weed committees</li> <li>• Union of BC Municipalities</li> </ul>
Forest Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BC Nursery Trade Association</li> <li>• Central Interior Logging Association</li> <li>• Coast Forest Lumber Association</li> <li>• Council of Forest Industries</li> <li>• Federation of BC Woodlot Associations</li> <li>• Forest Nursery Association of BC</li> <li>• Northern Integrated Vegetation Management Association</li> <li>• Private Forest Landowners Association</li> <li>• Truck Loggers Association</li> </ul>
Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BC Agriculture Council</li> <li>• BC Cattlemen's Association</li> <li>• BC Forage Council</li> <li>• BC Landscape and Nursery Association</li> <li>• Farmer's Institute</li> <li>• Provincial 4-H Council</li> <li>• Seed companies</li> <li>• Society for Range Management</li> </ul>
Utilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BC Hydro</li> <li>• BC Transmission Corporation</li> <li>• Fortis</li> <li>• Duke Energy Gas Transmissions</li> </ul>

Category	Potential Signatory
Utilities (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pacific Northern Gas</li> <li>• Telus</li> <li>• Terason Gas</li> <li>• Terason Pipelines</li> <li>• TransCanada Pipelines</li> </ul>
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BC Rail</li> <li>• Burlington Northern Santa Fe</li> <li>• CN Rail</li> <li>• CP Rail</li> </ul>
Conservation and Wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BC Habitat Conservation Fund</li> <li>• BC Wildlife Federation</li> <li>• Cariboo Chilcoot Conservation Society</li> <li>• Columbia Basin Trust</li> <li>• Ducks Unlimited</li> <li>• Federation of BC Naturalists</li> <li>• Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team</li> <li>• Grasslands Conservation Council of BC</li> <li>• Habitat Acquisition Trust</li> <li>• Land Trust Acquisition of BC</li> <li>• Native Plant Society of BC</li> <li>• Nature Conservancy of Canada</li> <li>• Rocky Mountain Elk Association</li> <li>• The Land Conservancy of BC</li> <li>• The Nature Trust of BC</li> </ul>
Recreation and Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BC Marine Trades Association</li> <li>• BC Rodeo Association</li> <li>• BC Snowmobile Federation</li> <li>• Council of Tourism Associations</li> <li>• Four Wheel Drive Association of BC</li> <li>• Guide Outfitters Association of BC</li> <li>• Horse Council BC</li> <li>• Mountain Bike BC</li> <li>• Outdoor Recreation Council of BC</li> <li>• Quad Riders Association of BC</li> </ul>
Academic and Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Affiliated research organizations</li> <li>• Bio-control businesses</li> <li>• Universities and university colleges in British Columbia, other western provinces, and western US states</li> </ul>
Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Association of BC Forest Professionals</li> <li>• Association of Professional Biologists of BC</li> <li>• Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC</li> <li>• BC and Yukon Chamber of Mines</li> <li>• BC Institute of Agrologists</li> <li>• BC Society of Landscape Architects</li> <li>• BC Plant Protection Advisory Council</li> <li>• BC Real Estate Association</li> <li>• Integrated Vegetation Management Association of BC</li> <li>• Land development associations and affiliated industry</li> </ul>



## **Invasive Plant Strategy for British Columbia Memorandum of Support**

The *Invasive Plant Strategy for British Columbia* is a collaborative outcome produced by a wide range of representatives from:

- All orders of government, including federal, provincial, local and First Nations;
- Land- and water-based user groups;
- Resource-based businesses and industries;
- Utilities; and
- Non-government organizations.

The strategy's goal is to build cooperation and coordination to protect British Columbia's environment and minimize negative social and economic impacts caused by the introduction, establishment and spread of invasive alien plants.

Signatories to this Memorandum of Support endorse the strategy's intent and thereby agree to uphold and espouse its goal. Signatories agree to participate in the Invasive Plant Council of British Columbia and help build leadership and a cooperative, province-wide invasive plant management program. Signatories are likewise expected to encourage other potential parties and individuals to work towards successful implementation of the strategy over time.

Nothing in this Memorandum of Support obligates signatories to contribute financially to the Invasive Plant Council of British Columbia or any aspect of the strategy's implementation.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

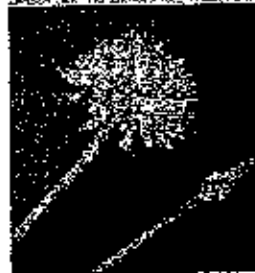
\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Organization

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# Invasive Plants in British Columbia



*Spotted Knapweed*



*Canada Thistle*



*Scotch Broom*



LEGEND	
●	Hound-tongue
●	Field Scabious
●	Marsh Thistle
●	Spotted Knapweed
●	Canada Thistle
●	Scotch Broom

Invasive – or non-native – plant species have spread over large areas of British Columbia and have significant negative economic, environmental and social impacts. This map illustrates the extent of just six of over 40 major invasive plant species throughout the province. Please note that the map does not reflect the fact that many of these invasive plants overlap in distribution.

The Fraser Basin Council has worked with many agencies, organizations and individuals to develop the *Invasive Plant Strategy for British Columbia*. The **Invasive Plant Council of British Columbia** is being established to address this important sustainability challenge.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:



**Fraser Basin Council**

Fraser Basin Council  
1st Floor – 470 Granville Street  
Vancouver BC V6C 1V5

Tel: (604) 488-5350  
Fax: (604) 488-5351  
Email: [gwallin@fraserbasin.bc.ca](mailto:gwallin@fraserbasin.bc.ca)

[www.fraserbasin.bc.ca](http://www.fraserbasin.bc.ca)



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO			
JUN 11 2004			
CHAIR		GMCrs	
CAO		GMDS	
GMCs		GMES	

MEMORANDUM

TO: Neil Connelly  
General Manager - Community Services

DATE: June 10, 2004

FROM: Mike Donnelly  
Manager of Transportation Services

FILE: 8600-03

SUBJECT: Transit Special Event Application  
Ocean Idlers Car Club - Parksville

PURPOSE

To bring forward the application under the Special Events Policy for shuttle service to be provided by the Regional Transit buses for the August 1, 2004 Ocean Idlers Car Club Car Show in Parksville.

BACKGROUND

Application has been made for the use of Nanaimo Regional Transit buses for this event to be held in Parksville on August 1<sup>st</sup> of this year. The request letter is attached. They note that parking is a problem in the immediate area of the show and that additional parking is to be provided off site.

The Ocean Idlers Car Club has requested that a bus be made available to transport patrons of the event from a central parking area to the event site at the Community Park. It is proposed that a single low floor bus would provide free shuttle service between the parking area and the community park (approximately 1 km). As the organizers of this event would prefer to offer free shuttle service for attendees, a fee in lieu of fares has been determined. The fee would be \$520.00 and would cover full operational costs for the six hours of service requested.

This service was requested by the same organization in August of 2000. At that time the Special Event request for a bus was granted with the Ocean Idlers Car Club paying the full cost for the use of the bus. Traffic routing and the parking location signage was not optimal at that time resulting in a low level of shuttle use. For this year's event the routing has been improved and the parking lot location will have adequate signage, which should result in greater use of the shuttle.

The Special Events policy states that:

*Requests for the use of Transit buses for special events will be considered by the Regional District of Nanaimo where the following criteria are met:*

- *The event is community oriented and open to participation by all members of the public.*
- *The event is held within the Transit service area.*

This application meets those requirements.

**ALTERNATIVES**

1. Approve the application for shuttle bus service for the Ocean Idlers Car Club Car Show.
2. Do not approve the application for shuttle bus service for the Ocean Idlers Car Club Car Show.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**


Costs for this service will be borne by the Ocean Idlers Car Club. The total cost for the Sunday level service will be \$520.00.

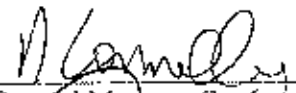
**SUMMARY**

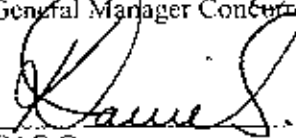
The Ocean Idlers Car Club has made application under the Special Events Policy requesting bus service for their August 1, 2004 car show, which is to be held in Parksville. The Club has agreed to cover the full operational costs for this shuttle service.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Transit Special Events request by the Ocean Idlers Car Club for shuttle service to be provided on Sunday August 1, 2004 be approved.

  
.....  
Report Writer

  
.....  
General Manager Concurrence

  
.....  
CAO Concurrence

COMMENTS:

**Ocean Idlers Car Club**

Neil Billings,  
#5 Trail Place,  
Parksville, B.C. V9P 2W1  
(250)248-5350  
neilbillings@telus.net

June 10, 2004

Regional District of Nanaimo,  
Mike Donnelly,  
Manager, Transportation Division  
Nanaimo.

Dear Sir:

Our Car Club will be hosting the fifteenth annual Car Show on August 1, 2004,  
at the Parksville Community Park.

In the past few years, the number of participants, and spectators have  
grown tremendously.

Spectator parking, and limited access to the on-site parking has become a  
major problem for our show.

The City of Parksville has offered to let us use the area behind City Hall for  
off-site parking.

We would require a shuttle bus, 30 – 35 passenger for the hours of 9:00AM  
to 3:00PM

Could you please let me know if the RDN could supply a vehicle, and also if  
any costs would be involved.

Our Club is a Society, and as such we donate funds back to the  
Community, including scholarships to Malapsina College.

Sincerely,

**Neil Billings,**

**President, Ocean Idlers Car Club.**



REGIONAL DISTRICT  
OF NANAIMO

JUN 11 2004

CHAIR		GMCrS	
AG		GMDS	
ERS		GMES	

MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Neil Connelly  
General Manager - Community Services

**DATE:** June 10, 2004

**FROM:** Mike Donnelly  
Manager of Transportation Services

**FILE:** 0230-20-NASA

**SUBJECT:** Nanaimo Safer City Alliance Program

**PURPOSE**

To bring forward a request from the Safer Cities Alliance for the Regional District of Nanaimo's partnership in the Nanaimo Safer City Alliance Program.

**BACKGROUND**

The Safer City Program is a province-wide initiative led by the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC) whose goal is to significantly improve the level of road safety for all road users in British Columbia communities. In support of this goal, Safer City works cooperatively with key organizations in the community to improve decision-making with respect to road safety planning and improvements. It provides a forum for discussion and planning that includes a number of key organizations in the community.

The program has been initiated by ICBC and works in partnership with the City of Nanaimo and the Nanaimo RCMP to provide the framework for the involvement of other key organizations in the community. These organizations include:

- School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith)
- Malaspina University-College
- Ministry of Transportation
- Regional District of Nanaimo.

Currently the coordinator is working with these organizations to bring them into this program. They hope to begin work with the full group in September 2004. Regional Transit's role would be to convey their knowledge and experience gained in their extensive use of the road infrastructure and to provide suggestions for improvements that would enhance safety.

The Safer Cities Initiative is currently in place in a number of communities in the province including Kamloops, Abbotsford, Chilliwack, Langley, Maple Ridge and Saanich.

The involvement with the program by the RDN would come with the following expectations:

- to promote the City as a Safer City where appropriate;
- to include information or forward inquiries regarding Safer City as needed;
- to partner with Safer City where possible and beneficial to both parties;
- to participate in Safer City initiatives when it concerns the movement of Regional Transit throughout Nanaimo; and,
- to partner with Safer City events or initiatives where possible and beneficial to both parties.

#### ALTERNATIVES

1. Join the Nanaimo Safer City Alliance Program.
2. Do not join the Nanaimo Safer City Alliance Program.

#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this program. There will be staff time commitments to this program, which will include meetings and general communication between the participating groups.

#### CITIZEN IMPLICATIONS

Improved communication between key organizations in the community will improve decision making with respect to road safety. This in turn will reduce accidents and the subsequent costs associated with such events.

#### SUMMARY

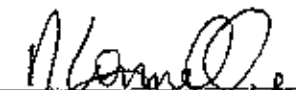
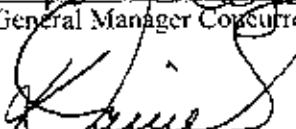
The Nanaimo Safer City Alliance is being put in place to provide a forum for key organizations associated with transportation issues to meet and discuss safety issues. This will provide for an improved coordination of planning and resource expenditures related to road safety improvements in Nanaimo.

The RDN, through the Transportation Services Department, has been asked to join in this alliance.

#### RECOMMENDATION

That the involvement of the Regional District of Nanaimo in the Nanaimo Safer City Alliance program be approved.

*for*   
Report Writer

  
General Manager Concurrence  
  
CAO Concurrence

COMMENTS:



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO		
JUN 14 2004		
CHAIR	EMC/S	
SAG	EMDS	
EMC/S	EMES	
DATE: <i>Colt</i>		

MEMORANDUM

TO: K. Daniels  
Chief Administrative Officer

FROM: C. Mason  
General Manager, Corporate Services

SUBJECT: Procedure Bylaw No. 1393

June 14, 2004

FILE:

PURPOSE:

To consider the adoption of Bylaw No. 1393, which updates the Board Procedure Bylaw to conform with the new provisions of the *Community Charter* and establishes a new meeting schedule for Board and Committee meetings.

BACKGROUND:

Several months ago the Board asked to staff to prepare a report studying the option of changing Board meetings to the fourth Tuesday of each month. A report was brought to the March Committee meeting examining this option and at the April 13, 2004 Board Meeting, the following resolution was endorsed:

*That "Board Procedure Bylaw No. 1268, 2002" be amended to incorporate the fourth Tuesday of each month (for the months from January to November) as the regular meeting date for Board meetings, and that the second Tuesday in December be defined as the regular Board meeting date for the month of December.*

It was further requested that the implementation of this change to the meeting schedule be deferred until September to provide an opportunity for adequate public notice. Staff have prepared a new Procedure Bylaw which incorporates this change to the meeting schedule, and also includes some minor housekeeping amendments as per the requirements of the *Community Charter*. Section 7 of the Procedure Bylaw has incorporated the new meeting schedule.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve Procedure Bylaw No. 1393 as presented with an implementation date of September 2004.
2. Approve Procedure Bylaw No. 1393 with a revised implementation date.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no financial implications related to the changes to the Procedure Bylaw. Some minor advertising costs will be incurred for public notification purposes.




**CONCLUSIONS:**

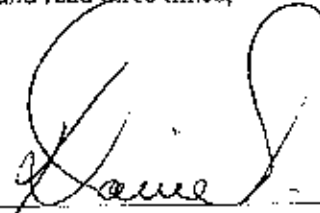
At the April Board Meeting, the Board supported changing the meeting schedule to hold Board meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month, except for the inaugural meeting which is held annually on the second Tuesday of December. This change was requested to accommodate municipal business which is often dealt with earlier in the month and would enable municipal members to respond to Regional District requests in a more timely fashion.

A new Procedure Bylaw has been prepared which formalizes this change with an effective date of September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004. This will result in a Committee of the Whole meeting being scheduled for September 14<sup>th</sup> and a regular Board meeting being held on September 28<sup>th</sup>. The Board will still have the ability to call a Special Board Meeting if business arises that needs to be dealt at an earlier meeting date. Some minor housekeeping amendments have also been incorporated into the Procedure Bylaw to reflect new requirements under the *Community Charter*.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. That the implementation of Board meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month be implemented commencing September 2004.
1. That "Procedure Bylaw No. 1393, 2004" be introduced and read three times;
2. That "Procedure Bylaw No. 1393, 2004" be adopted.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Report Writer

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
C.A.O. Concurrence

**COMMENTS:**



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO	
JUN 11 2004	
CHAIR	GMCrS
CAO	GMDS
GMCmS	GMES
COUNCIL	
DATE:	

MEMORANDUM

TO: C.Mason  
General Manager, Corporate Services

FROM: N.Avery  
Manager, Financial Services

SUBJECT: Yellowpoint Waterloo Fire Protection Specified Area Conversion Bylaw No. 1388

PURPOSE:

To introduce for first three readings "Yellowpoint Waterloo Fire Protection Service Area Establishing Bylaw No. 1388, 2004".

BACKGROUND:

The owners of the property known locally as the Rondalyn Resort in Electoral Area C are in the process of applying for a subdivision approval. A condition of the subdivision approval is that the applicant proves satisfactory water for fire protection purposes. The property has good sources of water, however it has come to staff's attention that this property, which includes several permanent mobile home type dwellings, as well as a neighbouring property, are not within the boundaries of a fire protection service. The subdivision plan proposes to increase the density of permanent dwellings on the property from about 23 to 53. The properties can be serviced by the North Oyster Volunteer Fire Department, which operates under contract to the Regional District in this area. Staff recommend that given the density of the development on the property, that the boundaries of the fire protection service area be extended. The property owner has been provided petitions for this purpose.

The Yellowpoint Waterloo Fire Protection area is a specified area and must be converted to a service area in order to amend the boundaries. This bylaw is being introduced in anticipation that the petition process will conclude sometime in July and after approval by the Province, could be adopted at the August Board meeting.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Introduce the bylaw to convert and extend the boundaries of the Yellowpoint Waterloo Fire Protection service for first three readings.
2. Take no action at this time.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The largest property owner is the owner of the land on which the resort development is located. The estimated cost to the resort property owner is estimated at \$490 per year. The neighbouring property can expect to pay about \$165 per year. The existing permanent mobile homes on the land will incur new taxes of between \$8 and \$15 per year. There are no other financial implications to the Regional District directly.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL IMPLICATIONS:**

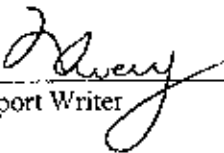
The Cowichan Valley Regional District, which authorizes the services provided by the North Oyster Volunteer Fire Department, concurs with the boundary extension.


**SUMMARY/CONCLUSIONS:**

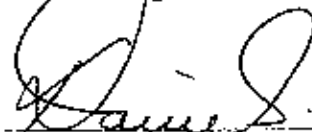
During the course of approving a subdivision plan for the property known as the Rondalyn Resort, it has come to staff's attention that the property is not within a fire protection service area. There are approximately 23 existing permanent residences and the subdivision plan proposes 30 additional units. A condition of the subdivision approval is the ability to prove adequate water for firefighting purposes. The property has good water sources, however, without the services of a fire department it is at risk. Staff recommend extending the boundaries of the Yellowpoint Waterloo fire service area, which will bring the property within the boundaries serviced by the North Oyster Volunteer Fire Department.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That "Yellowpoint Waterloo Fire Protection Service Area Establishing Bylaw No. 1388, 2004" be introduced for first three readings and be forwarded to the Inspector of Municipalities for approval.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Report Writer

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
General Manager Concurrence

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CAO Concurrence

**COMMENTS:**

# REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

## BYLAW NO. 1388

### A BYLAW TO CONVERT THE YELLOWPOINT-WATERLOO FIRE PROTECTION SPECIFIED AREA TO A SERVICE AREA

WHEREAS authority is granted to the Regional District of Nanaimo under "Yellowpoint-Waterloo Fire Protection Specified Area Extension Bylaw No. 15, 1970" to provide fire protection services within defined portions of Electoral Areas A and C;

AND WHEREAS the Board of the Regional District of Nanaimo may, by bylaw, under Section 774.2(3) of the *Local Government Act* convert a service provided by the Regional District in accordance with Section 774.2(5) of the *Local Government Act* and by the same bylaw amend the power to the extent that it could if the power were in fact exercised under the authority of an establishing bylaw under the *Local Government Act* provided that the bylaw meets the requirements of Section 800.1 and is adopted in accordance with Section 802 of the *Local Government Act*;

AND WHEREAS the Board of the Regional District wishes to convert the service established under Bylaw No. 15 from a specified area to a service area and extend the boundaries of the service area;

AND WHEREAS a sufficient petition has been received for the purposes of extending the boundaries of the service area;

AND WHEREAS the Directors for Electoral Areas 'A' and 'C' have consented to the adoption of this bylaw;

AND WHEREAS the approval of the Inspector of Municipalities is required under Section 802 of the *Local Government Act*;

NOW THEREFORE the Board of of the Regional District of Nanaimo in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

1. **Service**

The fire protection service established within the Yellowpoint-Waterloo Fire Specified Area is hereby converted to and established as a service within the area defined in Section 2 of this bylaw for the operation of a service for fire protection.

2. **Boundaries**

The boundaries of the Service Area established in Section 1 are outlined on Schedule 'A' attached hereto.

3. **Participating Area**

Defined portions of Electoral Areas 'A' and 'C' are participating areas for this service.

**4. Cost Recovery**

As provided in Section 803 of the *Local Government Act*, the annual cost of providing the service shall be recovered by one or more of the following:

- (a) property value taxes imposed in accordance with Division 4.3 of Part 24 of the *Local Government Act*;
- (b) parcel taxes imposed in accordance with Division 4.3 of Part 24 of the *Local Government Act*;
- (c) fees and charges imposed under Section 363 of the *Local Government Act*;
- (d) revenues raised by other means authorized under this or another Act; and
- (e) revenues received by way of agreement, enterprise, gift, grant or otherwise.

**5. Maximum Requisition**

In accordance with Section 800.1(1)(c) of the *Local Government Act*, the maximum amount that may be requisitioned for the cost of the service is the greater of:

- (a) \$104,785; or
- (b) the amount which results by applying the rate of \$.7947 per \$1,000 applied to the net taxable value of land and improvements within the service area.

**6. Repeal**

"Yellowpoint-Waterloo Fire Protection Specified Area Extension Bylaw No. 15, 1970" is hereby repealed.

**7. Citation**

This bylaw may be cited for all purposes as "Yellowpoint Waterloo Fire Protection Service Area Establishing Bylaw No. 1388, 2004".

Introduced and read three times this 13th day of July, 2004.

Received the approval of the Inspector of Municipalities this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2004.

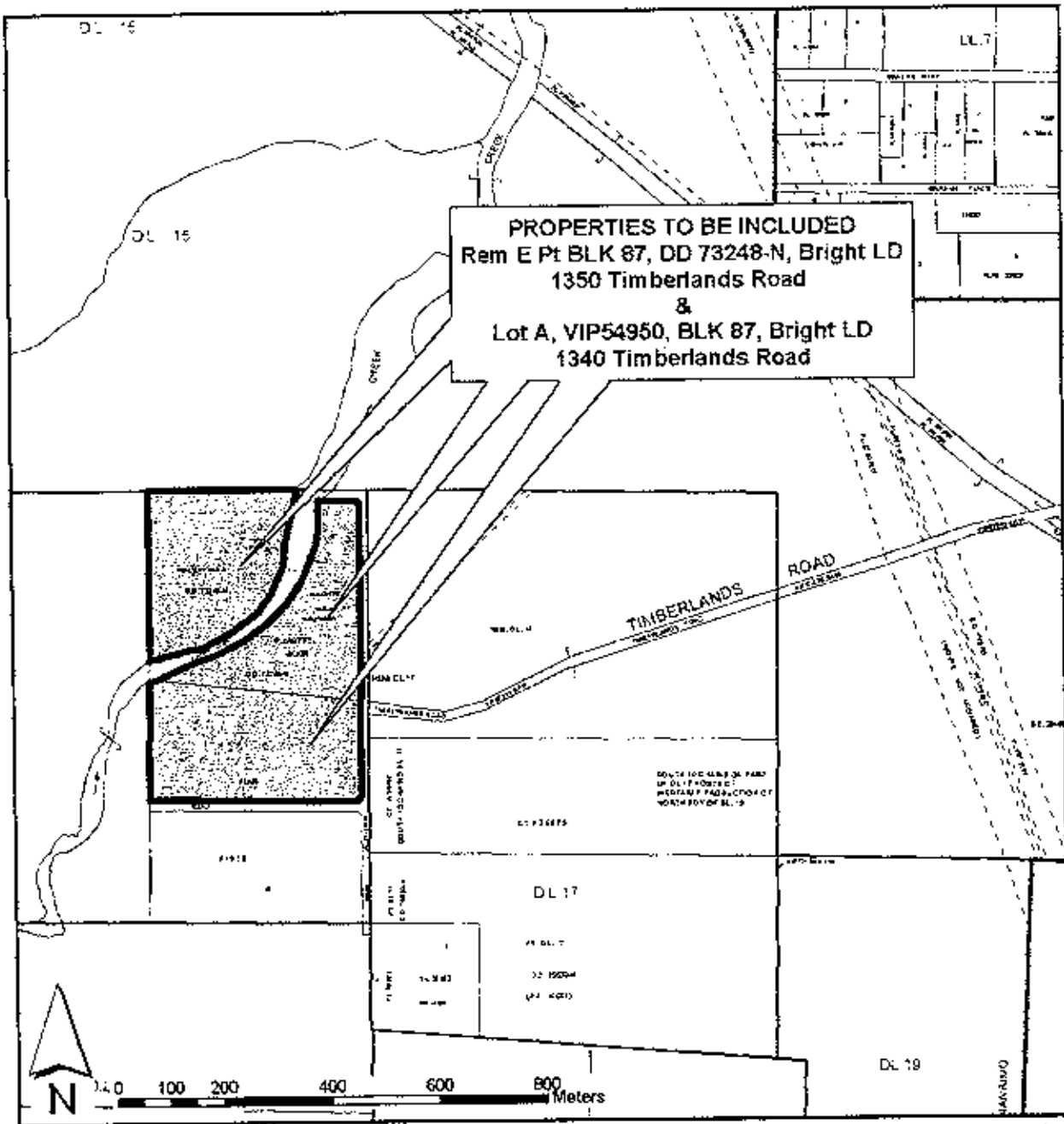
Adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2004.

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIRPERSON

\_\_\_\_\_  
GENERAL MANAGER, CORPORATE SERVICES

Chairperson

General Manager, Corporate Services





REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO			
JUN 14 2004			
CHAIR		GMCrs	
CAO		GMDS	
GMCms		GMES	
<i>Call</i>			

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** C. Mason  
General Manager, Corporate Services

**DATE:** June 11, 2004

**FROM:** N. Avery  
Manager, Financial Services

**FILE:**

**SUBJECT:** Regulatory Bylaw – Dashwood Fire Service Area

### PURPOSE:

To seek approval for and adoption of "Regional District of Nanaimo (Dashwood) Fire Services Regulatory Bylaw No. 1390, 2004".

### BACKGROUND:

The Local Government Act, under Section 522 provides that a board may by bylaw confer authority on a fire chief to enter onto and inspect property and take measures prescribed in the bylaw to prevent or suppress fires. The Dashwood Volunteer Fire Society felt that their current regulatory Bylaw No. 1006 had become somewhat outdated and did not address the management of domestic and commercial incinerators which are in use in the service area. With staff's assistance they have chosen to revise their bylaw along the lines of one in effect for the Errington Fire Service Area which does cover these items.

The regulatory bylaw sets out the responsibilities and authorities of the fire chief with regard to establishing rules for operating the fire department, inspecting properties where fire hazards may be a concern, issuing orders to remove flammable materials and most importantly for the management of personnel, equipment and the public at an emergency scene. The bylaw provides assurance to the fire chief and fire department personnel that they will not incur liability if they need to trespass on and inadvertently damage property while responding at a fire emergency.

### ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve and adopt the bylaw
2. Suggest further amendments and return the bylaw to the Society for comment.
3. Make no changes at this time.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:


There are no financial implications.


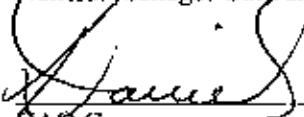
**SUMMARY/CONCLUSIONS:**

The Dashwood Volunteer Fire Society carried out a recent review of its regulatory bylaw in part to address the management of burning in domestic and commercial incinerators. The recommended bylaw is similar in content to one which has been adopted for the Errington Fire Service. Staff have reviewed the bylaw and consider it appropriate in scope and authority for the department.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. That "Regional District of Nanaimo (Dashwood) Fire Services Regulatory Bylaw No. 1390, 2004" be introduced for first three readings.
2. That "Regional District of Nanaimo (Dashwood) Fire Services Regulatory Bylaw No. 1390, 2004" having received three readings be adopted.

  
Report Writer

  
General Manager Concurrence  
  
CAO Concurrence

**COMMENTS:**



## REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

### BYLAW NO. 1390

#### A BYLAW TO MAKE RULES FOR THE PROVISION, OPERATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF FIRE PREVENTION SERVICE AND BURNING OF WASTE MATERIAL IN THE DASHWOOD FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE AREA

WHEREAS by Section 798 of the *Local Government Act*, the Board has all necessary power to do anything incidental or conducive to the exercise or performance of any power, duty or function conferred on a board or regional district;

AND WHEREAS by Part 15, Division 3, Section 522 a Board may by bylaw, make rules respecting the authority of the fire chief and any matter within the scope of the *Fire Services Act* in a manner not contrary to that Act or the regulations under it;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of the Regional District of Nanaimo in open meeting assembled enacts as follows:

1. That the "Regional District of Nanaimo (Dashwood) Fire Services Regulatory Bylaw No. 1057, 1996" be rescinded.

2. **Title**

This bylaw may be cited as the "Regional District of Nanaimo (Dashwood) Fire Services Regulatory Bylaw No. 1390, 2004".

3. **Interpretation**

In this bylaw unless the context otherwise requires:

"**Apparatus**" means any vehicle provided with machinery, devices, equipment or materials for the purpose of fire protection and assistance response as well as vehicles used to transport fire fighters or supplies.

"**Building Code**" means the Building Regulations of British Columbia as amended from time to time.

"**Commercial Incinerator**" means any device, constructed, placed, designed or used for the destruction by fire of industrial, commercial or institutional waste materials, but does not include a crematorium operated in accordance with the *Cremation Act*, R.S.B.C. 1979, c.81.

"**Domestic Incinerator**" means any metal, masonry or other container used to serve any residential dwelling unit utilizing a metal screen or grill of not more than 9.5 millimeters mesh to restrict any sparks or flying debris.

"**Equipment**" means any tools, contrivances, devices or materials used by the fire department to combat an incident or other emergency.

**“Fire Chief”** means the Fire Chief of the fire protection service area or his/her authorized agent, and may be deemed to be a Municipal Public Officer as defined in Section 287(1)(n) of the *Local Government Act* and empowered by the *Fire Services Act*.

**“Fire Code”** means the National Fire Code of Canada 1995.

**“Fire Protection”** means all aspects of fire safety including, but not limited to fire prevention, fire fighting or suppression, pre-planning, fire investigation, public education and information, training or other staff development and advising.

**“Fire Department”** means the volunteer fire department established for the service area by bylaw of the Regional District or by agreement between the Regional District and a duly incorporated society that by contract, provides fire service within the specified area.

**“Incident”** means fire prevention and suppression, elimination of fire hazards and attending fires for the purpose of containment and extinguishment of the fires and to provide assistance to persons and animals; and providing assistance in response to other classes of emergency as follows:

- (a) explosion;
- (b) flood, tempest, earthquake, landslide, tidal wave or other natural event;
- (c) building collapse or motor vehicle or other accident;
- (d) spill, release or leak of a substance capable of injuring property or the health safety of a person;
- (e) risk of explosion or fire or a risk of a spill, release or leak of a substance referred to (d);
- (f) an emergency as declared under Section 798.1 of the *Local Government Act* or under the *Emergency Program Act*;
- (g) first response medical emergencies;
- (h) rescue operations;
- (i) mutual aid fire services including mutual aid to the Ministry of Forests.

**“Member”** means any person that is voted upon by the existing active Members, ratified by the Officers and the Society Board of Directors as a member of the Fire Department and shall be deemed to be a Municipal Officer as defined in the *Local Government Act*.

**“Mill Waste”** includes bark, chips, sawdust and any other discarded wood products.

**“Officer”** means a Member elected by the active Members and ratified by the Society Board of Directors and given specific authority to assist the Fire Chief in his/her duties.

**“Private Fire Hydrant”** means a fire hydrant that is not a public fire hydrant.

**“Public Fire Hydrant”** means a fire hydrant operated and maintained by the Province, a regional district, a municipality, an improvement district or a society duly incorporated for the purpose of fire prevention and suppression or a fire hydrant located on:

- (a) a public roadway or right of way;
- (b) provincial, regional district, municipal or improvement district property; or
- (c) an easement or statutory right of way in favour of the Province, a regional district, municipality or improvement district for the purpose of installing and maintaining the water distribution system.

**“Regional District”** means the Regional District of Nanaimo or the Board of the Regional District of Nanaimo.

**“Society Board”** means the Board of Directors of the Dashwood Volunteer Fire Department Society.

**“Service Area”** means the Dashwood Fire Protection Service Area established under Regional District of Nanaimo Bylaw No. 964 and all subsequent amendments.

**“Standpipe”** means a water connection to the Little Qualicum Waterworks District providing a single 2 ½” connection with the water system.

#### 4. **Fire Chief**

The Fire Chief has responsibility and authority over the Fire Department subject to the direction and control of the Society Board to which he/she shall be responsible and in particular he/she shall carry out all fire protection and assistance response activities and such other activities as the Society Board directs including but not limited to:

- (1) administering this bylaw;
- (2) appointing Officers of the Fire Department to act as Fire Chief on his/her behalf;
- (3) establishing rules and regulations, policies and committees necessary for the proper organization and administration of the Fire Department;
- (4) reporting to the Administrator of the Regional District, through the Dashwood Volunteer Fire Department Society that is under contract to the Regional District;
- (5) acting as the Local Assistant to the Fire Commissioner, and he/she shall be responsible for the applicable enforcement of the Fire Code and Building Code;
- (6) organizing or authorizing programs and policies designed to inform the public or specified classes of the public on matters regarding fire safety, use of flammable materials, prevention, containment or suppression of fires or other circumstances that may cause harm to persons or property and escape from fires or other classes of circumstances that may cause harm to persons or property;

- (7) make orders or take measures to ensure that flammable material is:
  - (i) removed from land or premises;
  - (ii) removed to another part of land or premises;
  - (iii) rendered harmless or suitably safeguarded against fire by requiring the placement and maintenance of barricades or the posting of "No Admittance" signs or the placement of locks on doors or windows or any combination of these.
- (8) The Fire Chief or in his/her absence, the senior ranking Officer or Member present, may enter any land or premises during normal business hours or at any other reasonable time to inspect conditions which may cause a fire, increase the danger of a fire or increase the danger to persons;
- (9) No person shall falsely represent themselves as a Fire Department Member.

#### 5. Conduct at Incidents

- (1) The Fire Chief or in his/her absence, the senior ranking Officer or Member present, shall have control, direction and management of all Fire Department apparatus, equipment or manpower assigned to an Incident and where the Member in charge, he/she shall continue to act until relieved by a senior Officer.
- (2) No person shall in any way hinder any Member of the Fire Department or any other person assisting or acting under the direction of the Fire Chief or Member in charge at any Incident.
- (3) Where the Fire Chief or Member in charge at an Incident is of the opinion that there is imminent and serious danger to life or property, or that panic is imminent, in an emergency arising from a fire, fire hazard, toxic chemical spill or risk of explosion, he or she may:
  - (i) immediately make orders or take steps he or she thinks advisable to remove the hazard or risk;
  - (ii) establish lines marked by ropes, guards or barricades at an Incident;
  - (iii) cause people to be removed from an area or order the evacuation of a building or area;
  - (iv) call upon a peace officer to assist and to provide security to the evacuated area;
  - (v) request persons who are not members to assist in whatever manner he/she considers necessary to deal with the Incident, including removing furniture, goods and merchandise from any building on fire or in danger thereof and in guarding and securing same, in demolishing a building structure at or near the fire or other Incident;

- (vi) is empowered to commandeer privately owned equipment that he/she considers necessary to deal with an Incident;
  - (vii) enter and/or order Fire Department Members to enter onto any property or into any premises and damage, break, break up, remove or destroy any part or parts of any premises including any buildings, structures, improvements or vegetation on any premises when the Fire Chief is of the opinion that there is imminent and serious danger to life or property arising from a fire, fire hazard, toxic chemical spill or risk of explosion;
  - (viii) order the demolition of buildings, structures or improvements or the destruction and clearing of vegetation if he/she deems it necessary to prevent the spreading of fire.
- (4) The Fire Chief or Member in charge of an Incident may obtain assistance from other officials as he/she deems necessary in order to discharge his/her duties and responsibilities under this bylaw.
  - (5) The Fire Chief or the Member in charge at an Incident is empowered during the Incident to enter, pass through or over buildings or property adjacent to an Incident and to cause Members of the Fire Department and the apparatus and equipment of the Fire Department to enter or pass through or over building or property, where he/she deems it necessary to gain access to the Incident or to protect any person or property.
  - (6) No person shall drive, push or pull a vehicle of any kind over a fire hose or Fire Equipment without the permission of the Fire Chief or Member in charge.
  - (7) No person shall place or maintain any object or matter on a street or road, which interferes with free access or approach to any Private or Public Fire Hydrant, or Stand Pipe or cistern or body of water required for fire fighting purposes.
  - (8) No person shall park or leave a vehicle within 7.6 meters (25 feet) of a Private or Public Fire Hydrant or Stand Pipe.

#### 6. Maintenance of Premises

- (1) An owner or occupier of real property in the Service Area shall remove any matter or thing in or on any building or premises, which, in the opinion of the Fire Chief is a fire hazard or increases the danger of fire.
- (2) An owner or occupier of real property on which is located an unoccupied or abandoned building shall secure the building against entry by unauthorized persons.
- (3) An owner or occupier of real property shall, where installed, maintain any Fire Alarm System in good working order at all times and ensure that unnecessary false alarms are not transmitted to the monitoring station. Failure to do so may result in an "Order to Repair" being issued to the owner/occupier.

- (4) An owner or occupier of real property shall keep Private Hydrants in good working order, paint Private Hydrants Fire Department yellow, keep Private Fire Hydrants clear of ice, snow, shrubs, trees, structures and other obstruction and clearly identify the location of the fire hydrants. If said hydrants are out of service for repair or not yet in service they shall be wrapped in burlap or black plastic sheeting.

#### 7. **Open Burning and Domestic Incinerator**

- (1) Except for the lawful open burning of waste materials resulting from land clearance, agriculture, logging or gardening as permitted under another enactment, no person shall burn waste material other than in a commercial or domestic incinerator.
- (2) No person shall use a Domestic Incinerator:
  - (i) within 10 meters (33 feet) of any building, structure, overhead wiring or highway;
  - (ii) unless a person sixteen years of age or older is present at the site at all times while the fire is burning for the purpose of supervising and extinguishing the fire.
- (3) All permitted fires shall be fully and completely extinguished before the person supervising the fire leaves the fire.

#### 8. **Commercial Incinerators**

- (1) Where, in the opinion of the Fire Chief, any Commercial Incinerator is likely to create or become a fire hazard due to damage, deterioration, lack of maintenance, construction or location, the Fire Chief may:
  - (i) direct the owner of the Commercial Incinerator to alter, renovate, repair or relocate the incinerator; or
  - (ii) order the owner of the Commercial Incinerator to discontinue its use.
- (2) The owner of any Commercial Incinerator shall comply with the direction or order of the Fire Chief.

#### 9. **Deposit of Mill Waste**

- (1) Where any person has lawfully deposited any Mill Waste, he or she shall ensure that:
  - (i) no deposit has a depth greater than 3 meters (10 feet);
  - (ii) within one week, nonflammable cover material of at least 305 millimeters (1 foot) in thickness is applied to the deposit.

#### 10. **Enforcement**

- (1) Any person who violates any provision of this bylaw commits an offence and is liable upon conviction to the penalties provided in the *Offence Act*.

- (2) Where any violation continues, each day of which it continues shall be deemed to be a separate violation for the purposes of prosecution under this bylaw.

11. **Application**

- (1) This bylaw applies within the Service Area or Areas set out in the "Dashwood Fire Protection Establishing Bylaw No. 964" as amended from time to time.
- (2) The Fire Department shall not respond beyond the boundaries of the Service Area:
  - (i) without the express authorization of a written contract or agreement providing for the supply of fire fighting and assistance response services outside the boundaries of the Service Area;
  - (ii) the approval of the Society Board and the Regional District except in the case of mutual aid to the Ministry of Forests; or
  - (iii) unless an emergency is declared under Section 798.1 of the *Local Government Act* or under the *Emergency Program Act*.

Introduced and read three times this 13th day of July, 2004.

Adopted this 13th day of July, 2004.

---

CHAIRPERSON

---

GENERAL MANAGER, CORPORATE SERVICES



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO			
JUN 14 2004			
CHAIR		GMCrS	
CAO		GMDs	
GNCrS		GMES	

MEMORANDUM

TO: Stan Schopp  
Manager, Building Inspection Services

DATE: June 14, 2004

FROM: Allan Dick  
Senior Building Inspector

FRE: 3810-20

SUBJECT: Section 57 of the Community Charter - Contravention of Bylaw Meeting Date - June 22, 2004

PURPOSE

To provide for the Committee's review, proposed Section 57 filings on properties which have outstanding occupancy or safety issues that contravene Building Bylaw No. 1250.

BACKGROUND

The individual area inspectors have worked closely with the property owners to resolve outstanding issues prior to the sending of letters. A minimum of two letters addressing deficiencies has been sent to the registered property owners. Where required, the Manager and/or the Senior Building Inspector have been involved with proposed resolutions. At this time we are unable to approve construction at the indicated addresses.

SUMMARY OF INDIVIDUAL INFRACTIONS

Electoral Area 'A'

- Owners Name: Justin White  
Legal Description: Lot 24, Section 14, Range 2, Cedar District, Plan VIP59885  
Street Address: 1874 Mayhutt Place  
**Summary of Infraction:**  
May 12, 2004 - Sr. Inspector met with owner on site to review structure after repairs and clean up (grow op fire) completed  
May 12, 2004 - owner attended office to apply for a permit to bring building back to standard for occupancy as a dwelling unit  
May 26, 2004 - letter sent outlining requirements for an environmental assessment of building  
June 9, 2004 - message left for owner to contact Sr. Inspector regarding progress on file

Electoral Area 'B'

- Owners Name: Ingrid Pacey and Wendy Barrett  
Legal Description: Lot 1, Section 19 & 20, Plan 33019, Nanaimo Land District, Gabriola Island  
Street Address: 481 Spruce Avenue  
**Summary of Infraction:**  
October 9, 2002 - permit expired for SFD  
March 19, 2004 - status inspection arranged to update file, building now occupied, 17 deficiencies including safety items (deck guard and handrails incomplete)  
May 11, 2004 - letter sent of intention to file since no permit has been applied for  
June 3, 2004 - no further contact from owner; file forwarded to Sr. Inspector  
June 9, 2004 - Sr. Inspector left message for owner to contact RDN regarding filing process



**Electoral Area 'E'**

1. Owners Name: Mark Zaborniak and Arlene Nakatsuka  
Legal Description: Lot 8, Plan 15921, District Lot 52, Nanoose Land District  
Street Address: 1570 Seacrest Road

**Summary of Infraction:**

August 20, 2003 - building identified with suite in basement  
October 10, 2003 - BCAA confirms house upgraded to duplex on 1999 assessment; letter sent to registered owners who do not reside on the property.  
May 31, 2004 - much discussion with owners by bylaw enforcement officer has confirmed property only zoned for one dwelling since lot creation in 1960's. Suite likely constructed after 1974 when building permits required  
June 1, 2004 - owner unwilling to remove suite. File forward for filing on title  
June 8, 2004 - legal implications discussed in-camera. Current direction to pursue legal action if not resolved.

**Electoral Area 'G'**



1. Owners Name: Hans Kaltenbach and Keiko Kaltenbach  
Legal Description: Lot 3, Block 1, District Lot 9, Newcastle District, Plan 15370  
Street Address: 1081 Surfside Drive

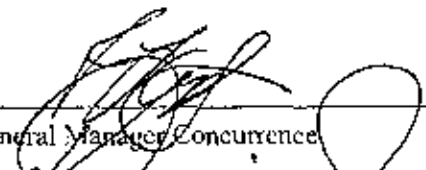
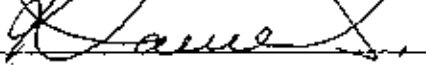
**Summary of Infraction:**

May 27, 2004 - Sunroom constructed by previous owner approximately 12 years ago without building permit. Meeting held between owners and RDN planning staff to discuss options to resolve. Either remove structure or file on title given space is seasonally occupied and dwelling is self contained. Owner hopes to pursue variance application in the future when flood control regulations are able to varied by application.  
June 1, 2004 - letter sent outlining discussion of May 27, 2004 confirming no permit could be issued as sunroom does not meet Floodplain setback of Bylaw 843  
June 9, 2004 - letter forwarded to Manager for filing

**RECOMMENDATION**

1. That a notice be filed against the titles of the properties listed, pursuant to Section 57 of the *Community Charter*.
2. That if the infractions listed in Electoral Areas A, and B are not rectified within ninety (90) days legal action be pursued if necessary to resolve the outstanding issues.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Report Writer  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Manager Concurrence

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
General Manager Concurrence  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
C.A.O. Concurrence

COMMENTS:



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO			
JUN 15 2004			
CHAIR		GMCrs	
CAO		GMDS	
Gf&CmS		GMES	
<i>COO</i>			

MEMORANDUM

TO: Robert Lapham  
General Manager, Development Services

DATE: June 15, 2004

FROM: Jani Thomas  
Protective Services Coordinator and  
Pamela Shaw  
Deputy Manager, Development Services

FILE: 7320-01

SUBJECT: Interface Fire Hazards  
All Electoral Areas

PURPOSE

To present information and suggested implementation contingency plans to the RDN for addressing wildland/urban interface fire hazards.

BACKGROUND

In October 2003, the RDN Board carried the following motion:

*MOVED Director Bartram, SECONDED Director Hamilton, that with a view towards the protection of life, property and the environment from interface forest fires in the RDN, staff be directed to prepare a report on interface fire mitigation techniques and make recommendations that, if approved by the Board, would be included in the Regional Growth Management Strategy and Official Community Plans as part of the RDN's future land development strategy; and further that a copy of all information with respect to interface fire mitigation techniques be forwarded to the Emergency Planning Committee for their information and input.*

This staff report responds to the Board's motion. For clarity, terms used in this report are defined as follows:

- Interface Fire:* fires areas where urban or rural forms of development are found in close proximity to forested areas.
- Wildfire:* fires in forested lands, grasslands or uninhabited areas. Wildfires that encroach on settlement areas become interface fires.

The issue of wildfires in settlement areas has increased in importance in British Columbia in recent years. Beginning in summer 2000, the province has faced four high hazard fire seasons. The summer of 2003 was among the most severe: there were 2500 fires starts, 3 lives were lost, 45,000 persons were evacuated, 300 homes destroyed, great loss of businesses and other buildings and structures. All told,

fire season of 2003 cost an estimated \$700 million to contain<sup>1</sup>. Fire officials and climatologist expect summer 2004 to be another high hazard season.

While wildfires are part of a natural forest regeneration cycle, our response to wildfires and the encroachment of development into wild land areas are considered the two primary factors increasing the severity and impact of wildfires and interface fires. First, fire suppression techniques have improved in the past 100 years; formerly, fire fighting strategies were focused on containing fires rather than suppressing fires. In more recent years, however, (due to changes in management practices, increasing value of timber, and public reaction to wildfires); efforts have focused on rapid response and elimination of wildfires. The result of increased efficiencies in fire suppression has been an increase of fuel buildup on forest floors. This, combined with extreme weather conditions, contributed to the intense fires experienced in 2003<sup>2</sup>.

A second factor contributing to the severity and impact of fires has been the encroachment of development into wild lands. The movement of persons to the rural/urban fringe to enjoy the quality of life found in low-density development is a trend that is likely to continue, despite the increasing dangers of fires.

Fire experts would suggest that the wildfire severity is influenced by three factors: topography, weather and fuel. Of these three, fire fuel (both natural forest floor fuel and the built/landscaped environment) is most easily controlled and is generally the focus of fire prevention initiatives. A number of current initiatives (sponsored both by the province and selected local governments) are outlined below for the Board's information.

#### *Provincial Government Initiatives*

The province of British Columbia retains responsibility for forest management and is viewed by fire experts as having a high level of efficiency in suppressing forest fires. However, years of fire suppression and the low priority placed on prescribed burns, has resulted in an increased amount of fuel on the forest floor. The province is considering the reimplementation of prescribed burns to manage fuel loads. In addition, the province is considering new methods of mitigating logging slash in the interface area.

The province has developed a 'FireSmart Manual' with practical recommendations for citizens to protect their homes from wildfire. The Manual notes that 48% of all wildfires are caused by human activity, and that these fires are having an increasingly devastating impact on interface areas. This brochure has been widely distributed across the province and is also available from Fire Services offices or on the province's web site.

As a further mitigation tool, local RDN Volunteer Fire Departments (VFD) identified to have jurisdiction in an identified high or extreme risk zone will receive sufficient copies of the Manual to distribute to residents. Due in part to the influence of this program upon the RDN's information posted on the RDN website, and liaison with both District 69 and 68 Fire Chiefs regularly, many area residents are contacting fire departments to request fire hazard assessments.

---

<sup>1</sup> APEGBC Input Cited in Firestorm 2003 Report 'Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC', <http://www.apeg.bc.ca/news/firestorm.html>

<sup>2</sup> Filmon Report, Firestorm 2003. p 26.

In addition, in response to the 2003 fire season, the government of British Columbia commissioned an investigation led by Gary Filmon to examine issues of finance and response. This investigation also examined the responsibilities of different levels of government and concluded with a series of recommendations generally intended to be implemented before the 2004 fire season (see Attachment No. 1 for a summary of these recommendations).

Among other recommendations, the Filmon Report suggested that the provincial government "lead in the development of a strategic plan in cooperation with local governments to improve fire prevention in the interface through fuel management."<sup>3</sup>

In order to facilitate the endorsement of the Firestorm 2003 Provincial Review, the Province has made funds to Regional Districts and identified high-risk municipalities to either commence or supplement their emergency programs. This money is available from the UBCM upon application, with the province paying a 75% share for a maximum of \$25,000.00. To keep existing emergency programs current and to become more comprehensive, the Province has also provided funds to the Justice Institute for Regional Districts to access for Emergency Management training, up to a maximum of \$30,000.00.

The Provincial Emergency Program (PEP) has also been supplemented with extra funding, as the need for inter-jurisdictional support in a standardized model was emphasized by the events of last summer.

#### *Other Local Government Initiatives*

Not surprisingly, local government jurisdictions that have either experienced interface forest fires or are at risk of severe interface fires are most advanced in their initiatives. The Thompson Nicola Regional District (TNRD) the site of the Barrier and Strawberry Hill fires of 2003, has a well-developed coordinated response system in place for dealing with forest fire (or other) emergencies. The TNRD has liaised with the RDN's Emergency Preparedness Department, finding our geographic and demographic information to be similar, and have requested material and resources from the existing RDN Emergency Plan. This sharing of standardized models of emergency management has been occurring throughout many areas of the province, and will further the goal of emergency planning on any scale.

In addition, the City of Langford, in recognition of large areas of urban/rural fringe residential development, has taken steps to control the severity and likelihood of interface forest fires. Langford has implemented development permit area regulations that combine the more usual 'form and character' requirements with 'interface fire hazard' requirements. In addition, Langford has initiated the unusual enforcement technique of 'rent charges' on properties that do not comply with development permit area requirements.

The City of Kamloops, as well, has implemented covenants on new construction to create fuel-reduced buffers around individual homes. The restrictive covenant also requires the installation of highly fire retardant roofing materials and spark arresters on all wood burning appliances. As well, the City is considering entering into Mutual Aid Agreements for Emergency Services with some neighboring jurisdictions as the endorsed method of providing a standardized and regional response.

The Filmon Report recommends that local governments enforce building codes and draft land use plans to help mitigate the hazards of interface fires. That is, the report recommends that homes be built and

---

<sup>3</sup> Filmon Report, *Firestorm 2003*, p. 28

home sites be developed to protect the build environment from fire. The Report suggests that these requirements be enforced through building and subdivision bylaws.

#### *Current RDN Initiatives*

Since the adoption of the Regional Growth Strategy in 1997, the RDN has established a number of policies and procedures to control development. Briefly, the RDN's Growth Strategy directs future growth to village centre and to urban containment boundary areas. Development in rural areas is recommended to be limited to one dwelling unit per parcel. In addition, the minimum permitted parcel size of lands outside of urban containment areas has been established to discourage the creation of rural 'neighbourhoods' or areas of higher density adjacent to wild lands. At the time of adoption, these policies were not intended to address interface fire issues. However, the reduction of density in the rural areas and the focus on urban land development preserves wild lands for resource uses. Therefore, potential fires in these areas are more of a wild fire threat than an interface threat.

In addition, the Electoral Area 'H' Official Community Plan (*recently the recipient of an 'Honourable Mention' Award from the Planning Institute of British Columbia*) contains implementation actions to publish and encourage interface fire mitigation techniques for all building and landscaping in all land use designations; this issue was widely discussed as part of the official community plan review. Given that the threat of interface forest fire varies among RDN Electoral Areas, it is recommended that this issue be discussed through official community plan reviews.

#### ALTERNATIVES

1. To receive this report for information and proceed with implementation actions as outlined in Schedule No. 1.
2. To receive this report for information and not proceed with implementation actions at this time.
3. To provide further direction to staff.

#### PUBLIC CONSULTATION IMPLICATIONS

From a practical perspective, much of the responsibility for protecting a rural interface home lies with the homeowner. Therefore, it is crucial that information be readily available to homeowners to protect their investments. The RDN's Building, Planning and Emergency Preparedness Departments provide 'FireSmart Manuals' at their respective counters and copies are made available at Planning Department Open Houses. Links to the Ministry of Forests, Fire Smart and Home Hazard Assessments are provided in the RDN website. In addition, the issue was discussed as part of the Area 'II' and Nanoose Bay Official Community Plan public consultation processes, and will be raised in future planning initiatives.

Through the RDN Emergency Preparedness Program, further consultation in the form of stakeholder input is routinely sought. Such agencies range from law enforcement, fire departments, search and rescue and emergency social services. The RDN, under requirement by the *Emergency Measures Act*, has a functioning Emergency Preparedness Committee, with members from first responding agencies; Ministries of Transportation, Forests; a local area director and neighboring Emergency Preparedness Coordinators.

## INTERJURISDICTIONAL ISSUES

In order to provide greater coverage of emergency service for RDN residents, in May 2001, a Mutual Aid Agreement was signed with the Cities of Parksville and Nanaimo, and the Town of Qualicum Beach. This Agreement includes a regional and standardized response and recovery approach, and provides for greater resources required for a higher level of emergency or disaster. The District of Lantzville is a pending signatory.

The Firestorm 2003 Provincial Review, adopted in totality by the Province, was very clear in the advocacy of Mutual Aid Agreements in Emergency Management;

"Some fire departments do not have authorization to attack out of boundary interface fires. Some fire departments do not have effective mutual aid/automatic aid agreements with neighboring communities. It is unacceptable that emergency agencies are prevented from working together".

The RDN is currently reviewing a draft Mutual Aid Agreement between the remaining VFD's to not be signatory to one. These agreements, in addition to the broader Emergency Management Agreement are strategic methods of preparedness for any emergency.

A clear understanding of relationships between varied levels of related government agencies, in addition to routine liaison aids in keeping current on changes in policy, regulatory acts, protocols etc. This ongoing commitment to communication between jurisdictional representatives will serve to prepare for the day when all must work together to effectively face an emergency.

## VOTING

Electoral Area Directors - one vote.

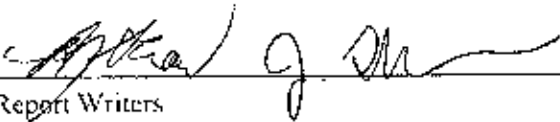
## SUMMARY

Given BC's recent experiences, planning for interface fires is no longer an optional practice. The implementation of the Filmon Report will require the coordinated involvement of individual citizens, the RDN, member municipalities, and a number of provincial agencies.

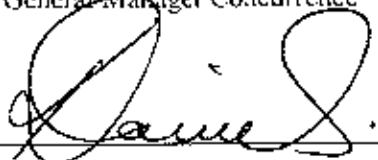
In order to mitigate the immediate fire risk, a "Fire Season 2004 - Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Contingency Response Plan" has been undertaken. This Plan includes the duties of different jurisdictions, the protocols for immediate response, and in an escalating situation, how the RDN becomes actively involved. Roles and responsibilities are delineated, and the existing hazard contingencies from the RDN Emergency Plan are included. Proactive measures have already been implemented, and preparedness as prevention has been a key communication in public awareness venues.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That the report on the forest fire interface be received for information.
2. That staff be directed to proceed with implementation actions as outlined in Schedule No. '1' of the staff report.

  
Report Writers

  
General Manager Concurrence

  
CAO Concurrence

COMMENTS:

Schedule No. 1

Implementation Actions

Action/Method	Explanation	Responsibility	Implementation Time Frame
Fire Mapping	Fire hazard mapping considers issues such as topography (slope, access, ruggedness), vegetation (type and amount), available water, emergency vehicle access, the location of buildings and structures, and the location of hazardous materials. Mapping may also identify prevailing climatic conditions, such as normal wind direction or known levels of precipitation. Forest fire mapping can be used to identify those areas most at risk, and highlight changes that need to be made to reduce the risk to life and property.	GIS Unit	<b>Immediate</b> (coordinated with provincial agencies)
Public Education	Initiate a public education project to inform citizens of forest fire interface issues in the RDN	Emergency Coordinator	<b>Immediate</b> Program to include web based information, publications, mail outs and information available at RDN sites and meetings.
Text Changes to Planning Documents	The Electoral Area 'H' Official Community Plan contains text, which supports the publication of information on and the implementation of fire mitigation techniques for all building and landscaping. It is recommended that all official community plans and the Regional Growth Strategy be amended to reflect similar text.	Planning Department	<b>Ongoing as OCPs and the RGS are reviewed</b>  It is noted that the issue of forest fire interface be considered along with other local and regional issues as these planning documents are reviewed. A Board-approved public consultation process is required for the review of these planning documents.



Action/Method	Explanation	Responsibility	Implementation Time Frame
<p>Development Permit Areas (within Official Community Plans)</p>	<p>Develop Permits can control the design of buildings and landscaping on properties within a designated Development Permit Area.</p>	<p>Planning Department</p>	<p><b>Ongoing Consideration</b></p> <p>It is recommended that the RDN proceed with considering the application of Development Permit Areas as Official Community Plans are reviewed. Further discussion with the province is required on the implementation of this Development Permit Area. In addition, it is recognized that extensive public consultation is required on a plan area basis, and that the Development Permit criteria may differ among plan areas.</p>
<p>Restrictive Covenants</p>	<p>Covenants are generally used to manage the subdivision and development of land. Other local governments have used restrictive covenants to require selected building materials or establish buffer zones around buildings and structures.</p>	<p>It is not recommended that the RDN proceed with restrictive covenants as an implementation measure at this time.</p>	<p><b>Ongoing</b></p> <p>The pattern of land use in the RDN generally restricts development to village centres and urban containment areas; the Regional Growth Strategy limits the potential of extensive rural 'neighbourhood' development. Public education and discussions at though the official community plans will likely offer a more productive response to addressing forest fire interface issues.</p>

Action/Method	Explanation	Responsibility	Implementation Time Frame
Changes to the BC Building Code	Establishes regulations for building techniques and use of materials	Building Department to discuss with province	<p><b>Immediate</b></p> <p>Initiate discussions with the province on changes to the BC Building Code. Specifically, discussion is required on the continued allowance for wood stoves, spark arresting screening, and non-combustible building materials.</p>
Subdivision Bylaws	Establishes regulations for access and egress, building sites and land development	Planning Department to discuss with Ministry of Transportation	<p><b>Immediate</b></p> <p>As the Subdivision Approving Authority, the Ministry of Transportation has jurisdiction over the subdivision of land within the RDN. Staff to initiate discussions with the Ministry on new considerations for addressing forest fire interface issues in new subdivisions.</p>
Emergency Planning	<p>Create and implement a Fire Season 2004 Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Contingency Plan.</p> <p>Public Awareness</p>	<p>RDN Emergency Planning, Ministry of Forests, District 68 and 69 Fire Chiefs</p> <p>RDN Emergency Planning</p>	<p><b>Immediate</b></p> <p>This targeted Plan is consistent with protocols in the overall RDN Emergency Plan.</p> <p>Ongoing and expanding. Website will be more comprehensive and more educational material supplied to the public. Related agency partner awareness of RDN plan – liaisons ongoing.</p>

P

## **Attachment No. 1**

### **Filmon Report (Excerpt of Recommendations)**

#### **Summary of Recommendations**

The Firestorm 2003 Provincial Review Team's recommendations are meant to strengthen and build upon existing efforts, and are complementary to and supportive of the many suggestions coming out of other internal operational reviews conducted by the Forest Protection Branch and the Office of the Fire Commissioner.

The fact that some of the actions we recommend are in some part already underway attests to the effectiveness of British Columbia's emergency response system and its capacity to deal with change. Even so, many activities would benefit by being accelerated and more broadly applied. In other cases, we have suggested new approaches to build on the strength that already exists in the province.

Some of the Review Team's recommendations can be acted upon and implemented quickly. Other recommendations that we have put forth will require additional time and analysis. But at the end of day, they too should be implemented with as much urgency as possible.

Collectively, our recommendations are intended to ensure that all communities in the province are better prepared to deal with interface fires beginning with this year's upcoming fire season.

#### **Forest Management**

##### **Province to Lead Strategic Plan Development**

The provincial government should lead the development of a strategic plan in cooperation with local governments to improve fire prevention in the interface through fuel management. The plan should:

- Focus on identification of those areas of the province where communities, infrastructure, and watersheds have the greatest potential to be impacted by large-scale fires.
- Identify and assign fuel management priorities based on threats to human life, property and resource values.
- Require a community protection plan in those communities with a high probability and consequence of fire in the interface zone.
- Be cost shared with local governments.
- Give priority for funding, fire management planning, fuels mitigation, and protection to these areas.

##### **Undertake Fuel Treatment Pilot Projects**

The provincial government should undertake a series of fuel treatment pilot projects in cooperation with municipal and regional governments in locations of high interface fire risk to demonstrate and prove the social, economic, and ecological costs and benefits of fuel treatments.

The provincial government should commit new funding for its share of the fuel management program.

##### **Adopt FireSmart**

Municipalities within fire prone areas should formally adopt the FireSmart (Partners in Protection 2003) standard for community protection both for private and public property.

At a minimum, this standard should be applied to all new subdivision developments.

**Look at Insurance Rates**

The insurance industry should encourage and reward, through its rate-setting process, dwellings and communities built to acceptable standards.

**Assess Land Use Plans**

The province should review and amend Land Use Plans and LRMPs to incorporate fire management considerations. Fire experts must be available to influence and participate in land management planning.

**Reduce Fuel Buildup in Parks**

The province should allow selective tree harvesting in provincial parks to reduce fuel buildup.

**Ministry of Forests Responsible for Fire Suppression in Parks**

The Ministry of Forests, Forest Protection Branch should take the lead in suppressing fires in provincial parks, as proposed under the new Wildfire Act.

**Use Prescribed Burning**

The province should establish strictly controlled conditions for using prescribed burning as a fuel management tool.

**Deal With Slash**

The province should require all slash within or adjacent to a wildland urban interface to be removed, treated or burned on site to mitigate the surface fuel hazard.

**Consider Amending the Annual Allowable Cut**

The Ministry of Forests should consider amending Annual Allowable Cut determinations in fire-prone ecosystems to encourage hazard reduction treatments by tenure holders in marginal and uneconomic tree stand areas within the wildland urban interface.

**Look at Alternatives to Stumpage**

The province should investigate alternatives to stumpage as an incentive to encourage the harvest of high-risk low value fuel types.

**More Research and Development**

Industry should undertake research into the use of small diameter trees in non-traditional forest products markets such as energy and bio-fuel.

**Retain The Knowledge Base**

The province and the forest industry must pay particular attention to retaining the existing knowledge about fuel reduction practices and continue to develop and expand that knowledge base.

**Share Information**

Wherever possible, British Columbia should focus on collaboration with North American and other jurisdictions to share knowledge and pursue research.

**Emergency Management**

**Require Wildfire-Proofing Across the Province**

The British Columbia government should require municipal and regional governments to implement building codes and land use requirements that have proven useful elsewhere in limiting the impact of interface fires.

**Make Local Emergency Plans Mandatory**

As is the case for municipal governments, regional districts should be required through legislation to provide local emergency plans developed to a provincial standard and maintained to a current status.

- Local plans should be based on the British Columbia Emergency Response Management System (BCERMS).
- Plans should be in a standardized format/template consistent across the province, and be made consistent with provincial plans.
- Plans should be developed from an "all hazards" perspective.

- Plans must be practical, comprehensive and updated annually.
- Plans must include mandatory mutual aid agreements among municipal and regional districts.
- Plans must incorporate clear obligations and personal responsibilities of residents living in interface fire hazard areas.
- Ideally, plans should include First Nations involvement.
- Plans must have a communications element that incorporates local media into the disaster response effort.

#### **Maximize British Columbia's Firefighting Expertise**

Provincial and local governments should ensure both forest firefighters and structural firefighters are cross trained in each other's area of competence.

The province should establish a working group of officials from a broad spectrum of interface fire responder agencies, fire training agencies, fire prevention agencies, persons with firefighting expertise, and other appropriate members to examine best practices relating to interface fires and recommend changes to government.

#### **Adopt Automatic Aid**

The province should adopt the principle of automatic aid to ensure that emergency services can be delivered in all areas of the province under the mandatory emergency plans.

#### **Command and Control**

##### **Standardize BCERMS and ICS Use and Training**

To gain the full value of BCERMS and the Incident Command System (ICS) it must be universally adopted by all provincial and local government agencies.

Training course material, delivery and examination for ICS should be standardized across organizations.

The province should consider the establishment of a single, province-wide focus for training within British Columbia to achieve:

- Implementation of consistent standards and policies for the Office of the Fire Commissioner, Ministry of Forests, and the Provincial Emergency Program to allow integration from within the province's emergency response structure.
- Development and continual upgrading of a common curriculum for all ICS training in British Columbia.

#### **Continuing Education**

Maintaining ICS accreditation over time should be dependent on a system of continuing education credits and participation in regularly-scheduled, integrated simulations using ICS.

#### **Communications**

##### **Develop a Crisis Communications Strategy**

The province should immediately undertake the development of a provincial communications strategy and protocol for major emergency events defining the roles and responsibilities of those involved. The strategy should:

- Include the participation of all key stakeholders including the media.
- Establish clear principles and protocols about the release of information.

- Identify how the media and the internet can be used in times of emergency as a technical resource and to disseminate information to the public.

#### **Establish Emergency Communications SWAT Team**

To coordinate on-site communications during times of emergency, the province should establish a media communications SWAT team with members from municipal, regional, provincial and federal governments and including other major stakeholders as appropriate.

The members of this team would be trained in crisis communications and would serve to facilitate, not stem, the flow of information.

#### **Cooperate on Training**

All jurisdictions should consider intensifying inter-agency training efforts, including the use of large-scale interface wildfire simulations, to improve communications.

#### **Achieve Emergency Radio Inter-Operability**

The British Columbia government should develop and implement a provincial strategy for emergency communications technology focused on moving over time to total inter-operability across agencies throughout the province.

Initial activities should include developing a provincial inventory for all fire, police, ambulance, forestry radios and frequencies to ensure that where radio systems are compatible, they can be programmed with common frequencies or talk groups.

Whenever portable and mobile radios for emergency services are replaced to accommodate narrow banding, they should be replaced with new radios that are inter-operable across agencies.

#### **Include Amateur Radio Operators in Emergency Response**

All Emergency Operation Centres should include a provision for amateur radio operators, including power and antenna space, in case they are needed.

Communications systems should be regularly exercised to ensure that equipment, policies and procedures are functional.

#### **Educate the Public about Interface Wildfires**

A cooperative public education program should be undertaken, building on material already available in various British Columbia government departments and agencies, as well as from external sources.

This education campaign must inform interface residents about the risks and their responsibilities in planning and preparing for and responding to interface fires.

The campaign should be delivered to school children as well as adults.

Municipal and regional governments should regularly distribute educational materials to interface residents.

Insurance agents should distribute educational materials with each policy renewal of an interface dwelling.

#### **Evacuation**

##### **Allow More Local Decision Making on Evacuations**

The requirements for issuance and lifting of evacuation orders should be reviewed by the provincial government to ensure that decisions can be made by those people with the best information, closest to the action, who are competent to do so. Decisions should not always be dependent on the Office of the Fire Commissioner in Victoria.

##### **Increase Understanding of the Evacuation Process**

The province should target greater resources at ensuring better awareness by the public about the stages of evacuation, including the procedures to be followed during an evacuation and after the lifting of an evacuation order, particularly in areas of high interface fire risk.

The procedures and powers of the police should be clarified and the permit re-entry process standardized so that all affected responders, evacuees, media and others understand the process, its logic and the location of the permit issuing authority.

#### **Simplify Access to Post-Evacuation Assistance**

The appropriate agencies should streamline and simplify registration processes and procedures, making it easier for wildfire evacuees to obtain the basic necessities of life during an already stressful time.

#### **Resources**

##### **Implement Firefighting Equipment Database**

The Office of the Fire Commissioner should implement a searchable database to maintain a current and accurate province-wide inventory of private and public sector equipment available for fire response.

##### **Access Local Firefighting Expertise**

The Ministry of Forests, Forest Protection Branch should implement a modern records management system to maintain a current and accurate province-wide inventory of certified forest firefighters available for fire response at the local level.

The Forest Protection Branch should consider some mechanism, other than retaking the S100, that allows past experience in the forest industry or fire fighting to be recognized as equivalent certification, as a means of ensuring adequate local resources are available in times of extreme need.

Pre-emergency preparedness models should be consistently implemented province wide by the Forest Protection Branch.

##### **Establish Consistent Pay Rates Province Wide**

The Forest Protection Branch and the Office of the Fire Commissioner should ensure that pay rates and payment criteria for firefighting personnel are preestablished, consistent and understood by all parties.

##### **Restore Crews**

The Forest Protection Branch should restore its Type 1 unit crew complement to 27.

##### **Eliminate Delays**

As a priority, The Forest Protection Branch should review the Danger Tree Assessment and Removal Process, as well as any other sources of delay, so that fire crews can be dispatched in a safe yet efficient manner to improve fire suppression effectiveness.

##### **Pay for Volunteer Firefighter Training**

Training for volunteer firefighters should be funded by municipal and regional governments.

##### **Treat Volunteers as Equals**

Volunteers must be treated as valued team members and fully informed of policies and expectations during emergency events.

##### **Involve First Nations**

The Ministry of Forests should explore ways to enhance the participation of First Nations in forest fire fighting and fuel load reduction activities.

##### **Provide Better Maps**

The Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management should accelerate the completion of the major mapping initiative currently being undertaken to ensure it is available for use in future fire seasons.

##### **Utilize Sprinklers**

Communities and homeowners in the interface should be encouraged to invest in methods of self-protection such as sprinklers as soon as possible.

#### **Financial Accountability**

##### **Maintain Financial Accountability of Wildfire Response System**

Following each major fire season, the provincial government should undertake a program of audits to examine, from a value-for-money perspective, the effectiveness and economy of the financial administration systems used by the Provincial Emergency Program, The Office of the Fire Commissioner, and the Ministry of Forests, Forest Protection Branch.

## **Post-Emergency Recovery**

### **Prepare the Recovery Plan Before the Emergency**

Every emergency management plan should include a recovery committee composed of representatives from local government, volunteer and funding agencies, the Provincial Emergency Program, local clergy and affected residents. For each natural disaster, a provincial "umbrella" committee with a designated lead agency should be established for the purpose of collecting donations and allocating awards.

### **Deal With Watershed Restoration**

The provincial government, in partnership with local governments, should examine watershed restoration as soon as possible, to identify the areas of severe watershed destruction and develop a plan for the protection and rehabilitation of these areas.

### **Engage Federal Government in Funding Fire Prevention**

In the short term, the federal government should examine the possibility of developing a program on a cost-shared basis with provincial and local governments that invests in the fireproofing of interface communities. This investment in prevention will undoubtedly result in a reduction in future damage costs under the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements.





REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO		
JUN - 9 2004		
CHAIR		GMCrs
CAO		GMDS
CMCrs		GMES
<i>[Signature]</i>		

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dennis Trudeau  
Manager of Liquid Waste

DATE: May 14, 2004

FROM: Chris Brown, ASCT  
Engineering Technologist

FILE: 4520-20-63

SUBJECT: Liquid Waste  
Northern and Southern Communities  
Pump and Haul Bylaw Amendment

PURPOSE

To consider an amendment to Bylaw 975 which established the Regional District of Nanaimo's Pump and Haul program.

BACKGROUND

The pump and haul service was established to provide a solution for those properties unable to obtain a permit for an on site septic disposal system. In order to apply for a permit under this bylaw the following conditions must be met:

- the applicant must have been formally rejected by the Ministry of Health for an on site system
- the parcel must be greater than 700 m<sup>2</sup>
- the parcel is for existing uses and the disposal system has failed, or the parcel is currently vacant and will only be used for the construction of a single family residence
- the parcel cannot be further subdivided or stratified according to existing zoning or a restrictive covenant
- a community sewer system is not available
- including the parcel will not facilitate development of any additional units on the property
- the development conforms to zoning bylaws.

A person wishing to incorporate a property (or properties) into the Pump and Haul Service Area must first apply to the Regional District of Nanaimo to amend the Pump and Haul Bylaw No. 975. A Restrictive Covenant shall be registered against the title of the land in question in accordance with section 219 of the Land Title Act. The Restrictive Covenant shall require that the owner of the lot maintain a contract with a pump out company with a copy of the current contract always deposited with the Regional District of Nanaimo; the owner of the lot connect to sewers when they become available and the owner shall not subdivide or construct any additional units on the property.

A request has been received to include the following property into the Pump and Haul function:

1. Lot 53, DL 78, Plan 14275, Nanoose Land District  
Dolphin Drive  
Area E

Theodore Rivney has petitioned the RDN to include his property into the Regional District of Nanaimo Pump and Haul Local Service Area, Bylaw No. 975. A letter from the Environmental Health officer at the Central Vancouver Island Health Region indicates the property could not be approved for a sewage disposal permit. The property is greater than 700 m<sup>2</sup> and conforms to the existing zoning bylaws.

A Restrictive Covenant will be registered on the property requiring that a continuous contract with a pump out company be on file with the Regional District of Nanaimo, that the owner will connect to sewers when they become available and that the owner shall not subdivide or construct any additional units on the property.

#### ALTERNATIVES

1. Do not accept the application.
2. Accept the application.

#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications. The applicant pays an application fee and an annual user fee. The Pump and Haul program is a user pay service.

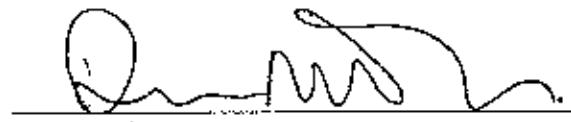
#### SUMMARY/CONCLUSION


The application meets all requirements for inclusion into the Pump and Haul function, specifically the parcel size is greater than 700m<sup>2</sup>, a community sewer is not available, sewage disposal permits could not be obtained under the Provincial Sewage Disposal Regulation and the property conforms to zoning bylaws. An appropriate Restrictive Covenant has been prepared for the property.

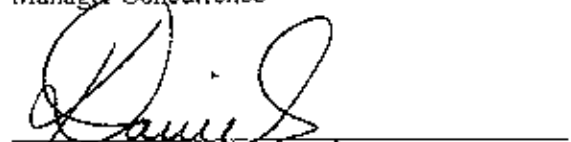
#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the boundaries of the RDN Pump and Haul Local Service Area Bylaw 975 be amended to include Lot 53, DL 78, Nanoose Land District, Plan 14275. (Dolphin Drive Area E).
2. That "Regional District of Nanaimo Pump & Haul Local Service Area Amendment Bylaw No. 975.36, 2004" be read three times and forwarded to the Inspector of Municipalities for approval.

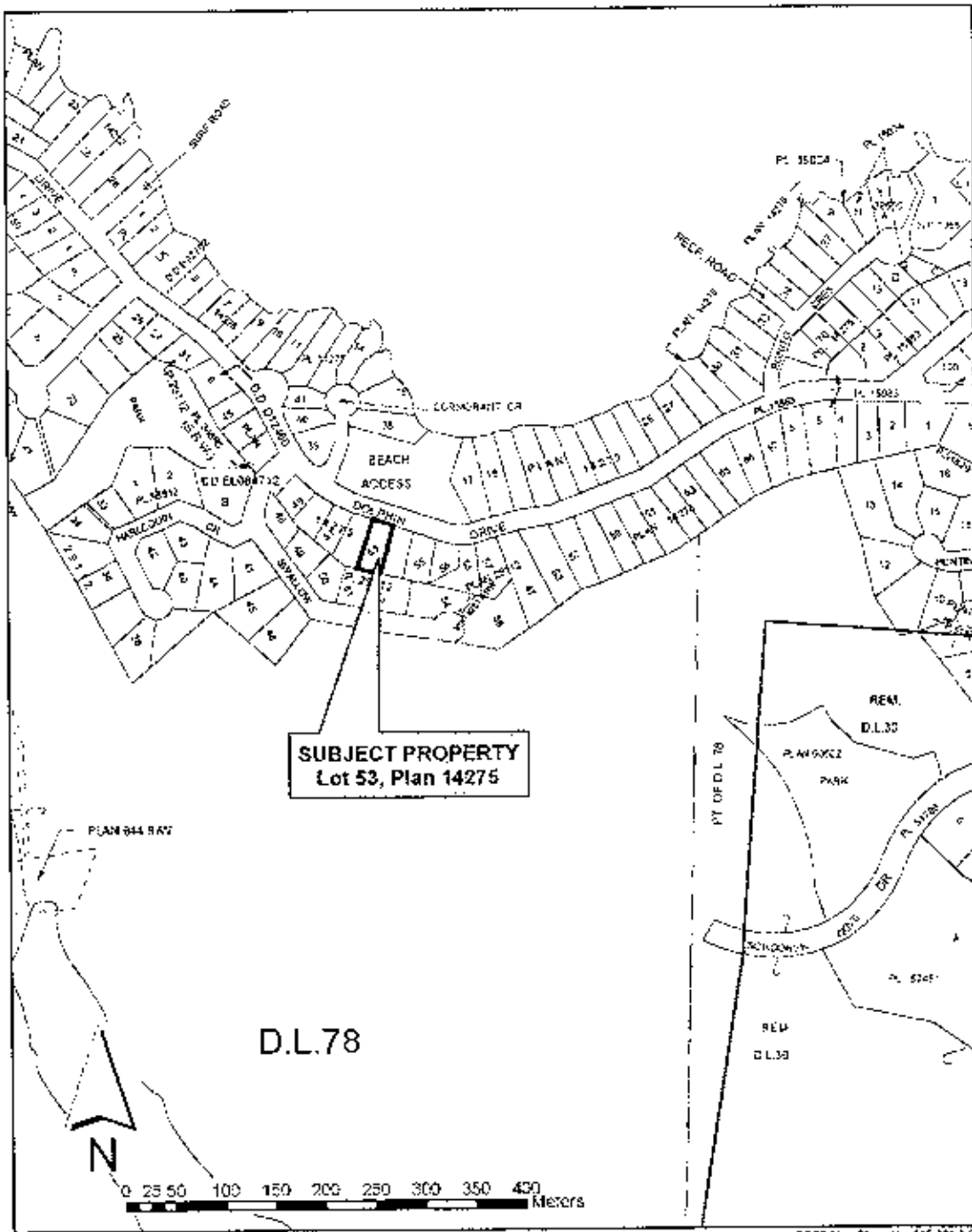
  
Report Writer

  
Manager Concurrence

  
General Manager Concurrence

  
CAO Concurrence

#### COMMENTS



**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO**

**BYLAW NO. 975.36**

**A BYLAW TO AMEND THE REGIONAL  
DISTRICT OF NANAIMO PUMP AND  
HAUL LOCAL SERVICE AREA  
ESTABLISHMENT BYLAW NO. 975**

WHEREAS Regional District of Nanaimo Pump and Haul Local Service Area Establishment Bylaw No. 975, as amended, established the pump and haul local service area;

AND WHEREAS the Directors of Electoral Areas 'B', 'D', 'E', 'F', 'G' and 'H' have consented, in writing, to the adoption of this bylaw;

AND WHEREAS the Councils of the City of Nanaimo and the District of Lantzville have consented, by resolution, to the adoption of Bylaw No. 975.36;

AND WHEREAS the Board has been requested to amend the boundaries of the local service area to include the following property:

Lot 53, District Lot 78, Nanoose Land District, Plan 14275 (Electoral Area E)

NOW THEREFORE the Regional District of Nanaimo, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

1. Schedule 'A' of Bylaw No. 975.35 is hereby repealed and replaced with Schedule 'A' attached hereto and forming part of this bylaw.
2. This bylaw may be cited for all purposes as "Regional District of Nanaimo Pump and Haul Local Service Area Amendment Bylaw No. 975.36, 2004".

Introduced and read three times this 13th day of July, 2004.

Received the approval of the Inspector of Municipalities this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2004.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2004.

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIRPERSON

\_\_\_\_\_  
GENERAL MANAGER, CORPORATE SERVICES

Schedule 'A' to accompany "Regional District of Nanaimo Pump and Heat Local Service Area Amendment Bylaw No. 975.36, 2004"

---

Chairperson

---

General Manager, Corporate Services

**BYLAW NO. 975.36**

**SCHEDULE 'A'**

**Electoral Area 'B'**

1. Lot 108, Section 31, Plan 17658, Nanaimo Land District.
2. Lot 6, Section 18, Plan 17698, Nanaimo Land District.
3. Lot 73, Section 31, Plan 17658, Nanaimo Land District.
4. Lot 24, Section 5, Plan 19972, Nanaimo Land District.
5. Lot 26, Section 12, Plan 23619, Nanaimo Land District.
6. Lot 185, Section 31, Plan 17658, Nanaimo Land District.
7. Lot 177, Section 31, Plan 17658, Nanaimo Land District.
8. Lot 120, Section 31, Plan 17658, Nanaimo Land District.
9. Lot 7, Section 18, Plan 17698, Nanaimo Land District.
10. Lot 108, Section 12, Plan 23435, Nanaimo Land District.
11. Lot 75, Section 13, Plan 21531, Nanaimo Land District.

**Electoral Area 'D'**

**Electoral Area 'E'**

1. Lot 69, District Lot 68, Plan 30341, Nanoose Land District.
2. Lot 1, District Lot 72, Plan 17681, Nanoose Land District.
3. Lot 2, District Lot 117, Plan 18343, Nanoose Land District.
4. Lot 17, District Lot 78, Plan 14212, Nanoose Land District.
5. Lot 32, District Lot 68, Plan 26680, Nanoose Land District.
6. Lot 13, Block E, District Lot 38, Plan 13054, Nanoose Land District.
7. Lot 5, District Lot 78, Plan 25366, Nanoose Land District.
8. Lot 24, District Lot 68, Plan 30341, Nanoose Land District.
9. Lot 13, District Lot 78, Plan 25828, Nanoose Land District.
10. Lot 58, District Lot 78, Plan 14275, Nanoose Land District.
11. Lot 28, District Lot 78, Plan 15983, Nanoose Land District.
12. Lot 23, District Lot 78, Plan 14212, Nanoose Land District.
13. Lot 23, District Lot 78, Plan 28595, Nanoose Land District.
14. Lot 53, District Lot 78, Plan 14275, Nanoose Land District.

**Electoral Area 'F'**

1. Lot 22, District Lot 74, Plan 29012, Cameron Land District.
2. Lot 2, District Lot 74, Plan 36425, Cameron Land District.
3. Lot A, Salvation Army Lots, Plan 1115, Except part in Plan 734 RW, Nanoose Land District.
4. Strata Lot 179, Block 526, Strata Plan VIS4673, Cameron Land District.
5. Strata Lot 180, Block 526, Strata Plan VIS4673, Cameron Land District.
6. Strata Lot 181, Block 526, Strata Plan VIS4673, Cameron Land District.
7. Strata Lot 182, Block 526, Strata Plan VIS4673, Cameron Land District.

8. Strata Lot 183, Block 526, Strata Plan V1S4673, Cameron Land District.

**Electoral Area 'G'**

1. Lot 28, District Lot 28, Plan 26472, Nanoose Land District.
2. Lot 1, District Lot 80, Plan 49865, Newcastle Land District.

**Electoral Area 'H'**

1. Lot 22, District Lot 16, Plan 13312, Newcastle Land District.
2. Lot 29, District Lot 81, Plan 27238, Newcastle Land District.
3. Lot 46, District Lot 81, Plan 27238, Newcastle Land District.
4. Lot 9, District Lot 28, Plan 24584, Newcastle Land District.
5. Lot 41, District Lot 81, Plan 27238, Newcastle Land District.
6. Lot 20, District Lot 16, Plan 13312, Newcastle Land District.
7. Lot 2, District Lot 9, Plan 21610, Newcastle Land District.
8. Lot 1, District Lot 2001, Plan 227, Newcastle Land District.

**City of Nanaimo**

1. Lot 43, Section 8, Plan 24916, Wellington Land District.

**District of Lantzville**

1. Lot 24, District Lot 44, Plan 27557, Wellington Land District.
2. Lot A, District Lot 27G, Plan 29942, Wellington Land District.



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO			
JUN 14 2004			
CHAIR		GMCRS	
CAO		GMDS	
GM		GMES	

MEMORANDUM

TO: J. O. Finnie, P. Eng. DATE: June 4, 2004  
 General Manager, Environmental Services

FROM: Dennis Trudeau FILE: 5340-01-SEPT  
 Manager, Liquid Waste

SUBJECT: Liquid Waste  
 Septage Fees

ISSUE

Septage treatment fees being paid by residents on Fielding Road and Protection Island.

BACKGROUND

Fielding Road and Protection Island residents are connected to the Greater Nanaimo Pollution Control Center (GNPCC) via a small diameter line that pumps into the City of Nanaimo (CON) sewage collection system. The systems utilizes individual septic tanks that remove solids from the sewage prior to the effluent being pumped into the communal line that transports the sewage to the CON system. Since the sewage line only transports the liquid portion of the sewage, the line can be much smaller. These types of systems are used to reduce the cost of sewers that may have to be located underwater or in bedrock.

The residents must have their septic tanks pumped out by a septic hauler every 3-5 years. Residents have advised the RDN that they feel they are paying twice to have their sewage treated; once by tax requisition and then by fees paid to septic haulers to discharge to the RDN system. This has been the case since Protection Island and Fielding Road were connected to the GNPCC but was not recognized until rates were increased for septage treated by the RDN. Currently the septage discharge rate at RDN facilities is \$0.16/gallon.

Staff has consulted with the CON and it was confirmed that Protection Island and Fielding Road residents are paying regular sewage treatment fees via their taxes and are paying for the septage to be treated at the GNPCC. Staff has prepared an amendment to the Regional District of Nanaimo Trucked Liquid Waste Disposal Amendment Bylaw No. 988 that will eliminate fees for septage from Protection Island and Fielding Road.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Adopt the new rate proposal for septage from Protection Island and Fielding Road residents.
2. Do not adopt the new rate proposal for septage from Protection Island and Fielding Road residents.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Protection Island and Fielding Road residents currently pay via their taxes for sewage treatment so there is no need to collect additional funds for treatment of septage.



### INTERGOVERNMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Discussions have been held with the CON staff who support the elimination of septage charges for Protection Island and Fielding Road residents.

### SUMMARY/CONCLUSIONS

Protection Island and Fielding Road residents are paying regular sewage treatment fees via their taxes and are paying for the septage to be treated at the GNPCC. In effect they are paying twice to have their sewage related waste treated at the GNPCC.

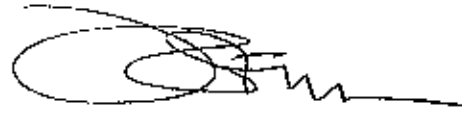
Staff has prepared an amendment to the Regional District of Nanaimo Trucked Liquid Waste Disposal Amendment Bylaw No. 988 that will eliminate fees for septage from Protection Island and Fielding Road residents.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

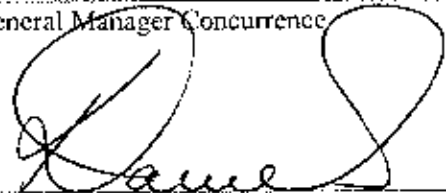
1. That the "Regional District of Nanaimo Trucked Liquid Waste Disposal Amendment Bylaw No. 988.05" be introduced and read three times.
2. That the "Regional District of Nanaimo Trucked Liquid Waste Disposal Amendment Bylaw No. 988.05" having received three readings be adopted.



Report Writer



General Manager Concurrence



C.A.O. Concurrence

COMMENTS:

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO**

**BYLAW NO. 988.05**

**A BYLAW TO AMEND REGIONAL  
DISTRICT OF NANAIMO TRUCKED  
LIQUID WASTE DISPOSAL  
BYLAW NO. 988**

WHEREAS the "Regional District of Nanaimo Trucked Liquid Waste Disposal Bylaw No. 988, 1995", provided for the discharge of trucked liquid waste into septage disposal facilities operated by the Regional District of Nanaimo;

AND WHEREAS the Board wishes to amend Bylaw No. 988 to identify the fees for properties on Protection Island and those specific properties within the boundaries of the City of Nanaimo as identified on Schedule 'C' attached hereto;

NOW THEREFORE the Board of the Regional District of Nanaimo, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

1. Schedule 'C' of Bylaw No. 988 is hereby repealed and Schedule 'C' attached hereto and forming part of this bylaw, is substituted therefor.
2. This bylaw may be cited as "Regional District of Nanaimo Trucked Liquid Waste Disposal Amendment Bylaw No. 988.05, 2004".

Introduced and read three times this 13th day of July, 2004

Adopted this 13th day of July, 2004.

---

CHAIRPERSON

---

GENERAL MANAGER, CORPORATE SERVICES

-----  
Chairperson

-----  
General Manager, Corporate Services

**BYLAW NO. 988.05**

**SCHEDULE 'C'**

**FEEES**

1.	Annual Administration Fee	\$ 50.00
2.	Application Fee	\$ 300.00
3.	User Fee:	
	For each gallon of septage in 2001	\$ 0.12
	Beginning in 2002 each gallon of septage	\$ 0.16
	For each gallon of holding tank waste from properties included within the Local Service Area (more specifically the Pump and Haul Local Service Area established by Bylaw No. 975)	\$ 0.01
	For each gallon of holding tank waste from properties included within the Home Lake Pump and Haul Service for the period from November 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2001 to December 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2004	\$ 0.00
	For each gallon of holding tank waste from properties included within the Home Lake Pump and Haul Service after December 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2004	the rates established above for the Local Service Area will apply
	For each gallon of septage from properties on Protection Island	\$ 0.00

For each gallon of septage from those properties  
within the City of Nanaimo listed as follows: \$ 0.00

- 1323/1325 Fielding Road
- 1335 Fielding Road
- 1341 Fielding Road
- 1343 Fielding Road
- 1350 Fielding Road
- 1357 Fielding Road
- 1373 Fielding Road
- 1390 Fielding Road
- 1400 Fielding Road
- 1403 Fielding Road
- 1416/1420 Fielding Road
- 1417 Fielding Road
- 1421 Fielding Road



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO	
JUN - 8 2004	
CHAIR	GMCrS
CAO	GMDS
SECMs	GMES

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Dennis Trudeau  
Manager of Liquid Waste

**FROM:** Sean De Pol  
Engineering Technologist

**SUBJECT:** Liquid Waste Management  
Supply of Ferrous Chloride

**DATE:** May 3, 2004

**FILE:** 2240-20-TREE

### PURPOSE

To consider the renewal of an agreement with Tree Island Industries Ltd. for supply of ferrous chloride to the Regional District of Nanaimo's wastewater facilities.

### BACKGROUND

The Regional District of Nanaimo has been using ferrous chloride at wastewater pumping stations for the past 10 years to neutralize the effects of hydrogen sulphide ( $H_2S$ ) in the sewage collection system.

Feeding small quantities of ferrous chloride solution into the sewer system is effective in reducing or eliminating odours and lessening the corrosive effects of  $H_2S$ , thus protecting the sewer system and deferring costly repairs. Other reagents, such as peroxide, are available to reduce odours and corrosion but are more expensive.

Tree Island Industries Ltd. produces ferrous chloride as a by-product from the steel industry. It is formed from hydrochloric acid used to remove rust in the finishing stage of nail and hardware production. The acid burns the rust off the steel and as a result, the ferrous chloride is high in iron content. The iron in the ferrous chloride binds with the  $H_2S$  in the wastewater and forms a stable iron precipitate, which immobilizes the caustic and odour effects of  $H_2S$ .

The RDN's need for an assured supply of ferrous chloride solution and Tree Island's need to dispose of its ferrous chloride combine to create a mutually beneficial relationship between the RDN and Tree Island Industries Ltd.

### ALTERNATIVES

1. Renew the agreement with Tree Island Industries Ltd. for the supply of ferrous chloride.
2. Do not renew the agreement with Tree Island Industries Ltd. for the supply of ferrous chloride, and obtain an alternate odour and corrosion control reagent from another source.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

### *Alternative 1*

The RDN pays approximately \$85,000 per year for supply and delivery of ferrous chloride, which amounts to \$425,000 for the term of the agreement.

### *Alternative 2*

Tree Island Industries is the only known supply of ferrous chloride from the steel industry in British Columbia that is suitable to neutralize the effects of hydrogen sulphide (H<sub>2</sub>S) in the RDN's sewage collection system.

In order to continue controlling odours and corrosion in our facilities we would have to purchase either Bioxide or Hydrogen Peroxide at \$153,000 or \$205,000 per year respectively, which would amount to between \$765,000 and \$1,025,000 for the term of the contract.

## PUBLIC RELATIONS IMPLICATIONS

The use of ferrous chloride at the wastewater treatment facilities benefits the public as it decreases odours.

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Ferrous chloride from Tree Island Industries Ltd. does not appear to cause a statistically significant increase in residual metals, other than iron, in effluent or sludge. The Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection has assessed the application of ferrous chloride to neutralize the effects of hydrogen sulphide in sewage collection systems and determined it to be an acceptable use.

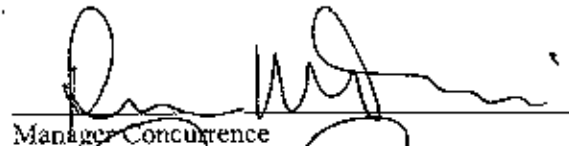
## SUMMARY/CONCLUSION

The RDN has been using ferrous chloride supplied by Tree Island Industries Ltd. for the past 10 years. The relationship between the RDN and Tree Island Industries Ltd. is mutually beneficial. The Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection have authorized the use of ferrous chloride in RDN wastewater treatment facilities. Ferrous chloride has proven to be an effective odour and corrosion control product and staff support renewal of the agreement between RDN and Tree Island Industries.

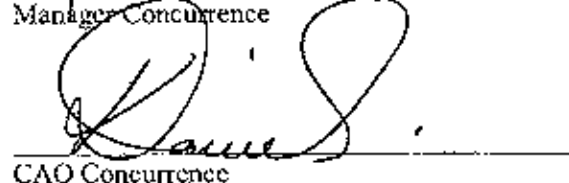
## RECOMMENDATION

1. That the agreement between the RDN and Tree Island Industries Ltd. for the supply of ferrous chloride be renewed for an additional five year term.

  
Report Writer

  
Manager Concurrence

  
General Manager Concurrence

  
CAO Concurrence

COMMENTS:



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO	
JUN - 9 2004	
CHAIR	CMC/S
CEO	GM/S
CLERK	GMES

MEMORANDUM

TO: John Finnie  
General Manager of Environmental Services

DATE: June 9, 2004

FROM: Carey McIver  
Manager of Solid Waste

FILE: 5360-44

SUBJECT: Regional Landfill Geogrid Toe Berm  
Release of Reserve Funds

PURPOSE

To introduce for three readings and adoption the "Solid Waste Disposal Local Service Area Reserve Fund Expenditure Bylaw No. 1389, 2004".

BACKGROUND

On June 8, 2004 the Board awarded the construction of a geogrid reinforced toe berm, liner and leachate collection system on the south side of the Regional Landfill to JIM Construction for the tendered amount of \$3,167,436.

Based on this tender award, the final cost estimate for the completion of the project is as follows:

	Final Cost Estimate
Engineering	\$315,000
Construction	\$3,167,436
Sub-Total	\$3,482,436
GST	\$0
Contingency	\$348,244
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,830,680</b>

The attached bylaw is required to release these funds from reserve.

The reserve fund was established to study and develop a new solid waste disposal site. Although the Board originally expected to use this reserve fund to construct a new landfill, this specific intention changed in 1999 when the Board chose waste export as the best option, at that time, to provide long-term disposal capacity. The understanding after 1999 was that the reserve funds would be used for the acquisition of property and construction of a transfer station. The use of reserve funds for the expansion of capacity at the landfill with the geogrid wall is consistent with the purpose of the reserve fund, which was to provide a form of future disposal capacity.

## ALTERNATIVES

1. Approve the bylaw authorizing the release of reserve funds totaling \$3,831,000 for the construction of a geogrid reinforced toe berm, liner and leachate collection system on the south side of the Regional Landfill.
2. Do not approve the bylaw.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

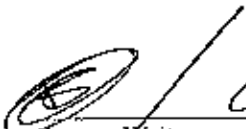
The 2004 capital plan anticipates that this project will be funded from the reserve fund which stands at about \$7,400,000. The release of \$3,831,000 to construct the geogrid toe berm will leave a balance of \$3,569,000 in the reserve.


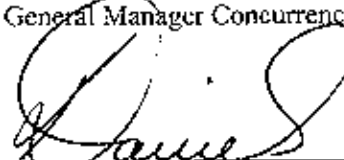
## SUMMARY/CONCLUSIONS

On June 8, 2004 the Board awarded the construction of a geogrid reinforced toe berm, liner and leachate collection system on the south side of the Regional Landfill to JIM Construction for the tendered amount of \$3,167,436. Based on this tender award the final cost estimate to complete the project is \$3,831,000. The attached bylaw is required to release these funds from reserve. This release will leave a balance of \$3,569,000 in the reserve.

## RECOMMENDATION

1. That "Solid Waste Disposal Local Service Area Reserve Fund Expenditure Bylaw No.1389, 2004" be introduced for three readings.
2. That "Solid Waste Disposal Local Service Area Reserve Fund Expenditure Bylaw No. 1389, 2004" having received three readings be adopted.

  
C. McIVER  
Report Writer

  
General Manager Concurrence  
  
C.A.O. Concurrence

COMMENTS:



**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO**

**BYLAW NO. 1389**

**A BYLAW TO AUTHORIZE AN EXPENDITURE  
OF FUNDS FROM THE SOLID WASTE  
DISPOSAL RESERVE FUND**

WHEREAS the Solid Waste Disposal Local Service Area Reserve Fund was established under Bylaw No. 879;

AND WHEREAS the Board has approved the construction of a geogrid reinforced toe berm on the south side of the Regional Landfill;

NOW THEREFORE the Board of the Regional District of Nanaimo in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

1. The sum of Three Million, Eight Hundred and Thirty-One Thousand (\$3,831,000.00) is hereby appropriated from the Solid Waste Disposal Local Service Area Reserve Fund to be expended on the construction of a geogrid reinforced toe berm on the south side of the Regional Landfill.
2. Should any of the above amount remain unexpended, such unexpended balance shall be returned to the credit of the Reserve Fund.
3. This bylaw may be cited as "Solid Waste Disposal Local Service Area Reserve Fund Expenditure Bylaw No. 1389, 2004".

Introduced and read three times this 13th day of July, 2004.

Adopted this 13th day of July, 2004.

---

CHAIRPERSON

---

GENERAL MANAGER, CORPORATE SERVICES



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO			
JUN 10 2004			
CHAIR		GMCFS	
CWO		GMDS	
MEMS		GMES	

MEMORANDUM

TO: Wayne Moorman, P.Eng. DATE: June 9, 2004  
 Manager of Engineering and Utilities

FROM: Deb Churko, AScT FILE: 5500-20-PS-01  
 Engineering Technologist

SUBJECT: Utilities  
 Inclusion into the Pacific Shores Sewer Local Service Area and  
 Northern Community Sewer Local Service Area (1520 Terrien Road)

PURPOSE

To consider a request to include Lot 8, District Lot 22, Nanoose Land District, Plan 10012 (The Nature Trust of British Columbia) into the Pacific Shores Sewer Local Service Area and the Northern Community Sewer Local Service Area (see attached plan).

BACKGROUND

The owner of the above-noted property has petitioned the RDN to be included in the Pacific Shores Sewer Local Service Area (PSSLSA).

The RDN has a letter on file from the Central Vancouver Island Health Authority indicating that the septic field on the subject property has failed, and the Health Officer recommends a connection to the community sewer. Four other properties have been previously approved for inclusion into the PSSLSA for similar reasons. Further, the site is not suitable for on-site sewage disposal due to the fact that Craig Creek crosses through the property, and the sensitive ecosystem within the Craig Creek estuary borders the property along the entire east side.

A sewer main and connection stub are present along the north side of the property thereby making a connection to the local service area possible.

The Northern Community Sewer Local Service Area Bylaw No. 889, 1993 requires amendment as well as the PSSLSA Bylaw No. 1021, 1996, in order to service this property with sewer. Both bylaw amendments are addressed in this report.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Do not accept the application.
2. Accept the application.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications to the RDN. If accepted into the PSSLSA, all costs associated with the connection would be at the expense of the applicant. The subject property will pay a Capital Charge of \$2,023 (Bylaw No. 1331, 2003), and a Latecomer's Fee of \$3,689 (payable to the City of Parksville) when being brought into the local service area.

## DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

While the property is outside of the Urban Containment Boundary, the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) Bylaw No. 1309 (2002) allows a property to connect to a local service area for health or environmental reasons provided it does not facilitate future development. The RDN has a letter on file from the Central Vancouver Island Health Authority indicating that the septic field on the subject property has failed, and the Health Officer recommends a connection to the community sewer.

The property is zoned Conservation 1 (ES1) and is within the "N" Subdivision District pursuant to "Regional District of Nanaimo Land Use and Subdivision Bylaw No. 500, 1987". The "N" subdivision district provides a minimum parcel size of 1.0 hectare when the property is serviced with community sewer. The property owner, however, will be required to register a restrictive covenant on the title restricting further subdivision of the property, and restricting sewer servicing to one single family residential connection only.

## INTERDEPARTMENTAL IMPLICATIONS


The subject property is designated as 'Resource Lands' in the Nanoose Bay Official Community Plan (OCP) Bylaw No. 1118, 1998, and amendments thereto. The property is located outside of the Community Sewer Service and Restricted Community Sewer Service Areas specified in the Nanoose Bay OCP. However, the RGS allows a property to connect to a local service area for health or environmental reasons provided it does not facilitate future development. From a land use planning perspective, Development Services has no objection to the boundary amendment required for this application.


## SUMMARY/CONCLUSIONS


Petitions have been received to amend the boundaries of the Pacific Shores Sewer Local Service Area and Northern Community Sewer Local Service Area. While the property is outside the Urban Containment Boundary, the Regional Growth Strategy allows a property to connect to a local service area for health or environmental reasons provided it does not facilitate future development. The Central Vancouver Island Health Authority has submitted a letter indicating that the septic field on the subject property has failed. The Health Officer recommends connection to the nearby RDN sewer system. All costs associated with connection to the RDN sewer system would be at the expense of the property owner. A restrictive covenant will be registered on the title restricting further subdivision of the property, and restricting sewer servicing to one single family residential connection only.

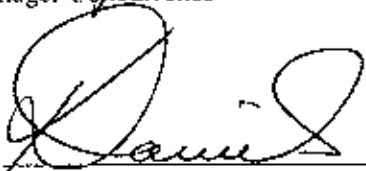
**RECOMMENDATION**

1. That "Pacific Shores Sewer Local Service Area Bylaw No. 1021.05, 2004" be introduced, read three times and forwarded to the Inspector of Municipalities for approval.
2. That "Northern Community Sewer Local Service Area Bylaw No. 889.26, 2004" be introduced, read three times and forwarded to the Inspector of Municipalities for approval.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Report Writer

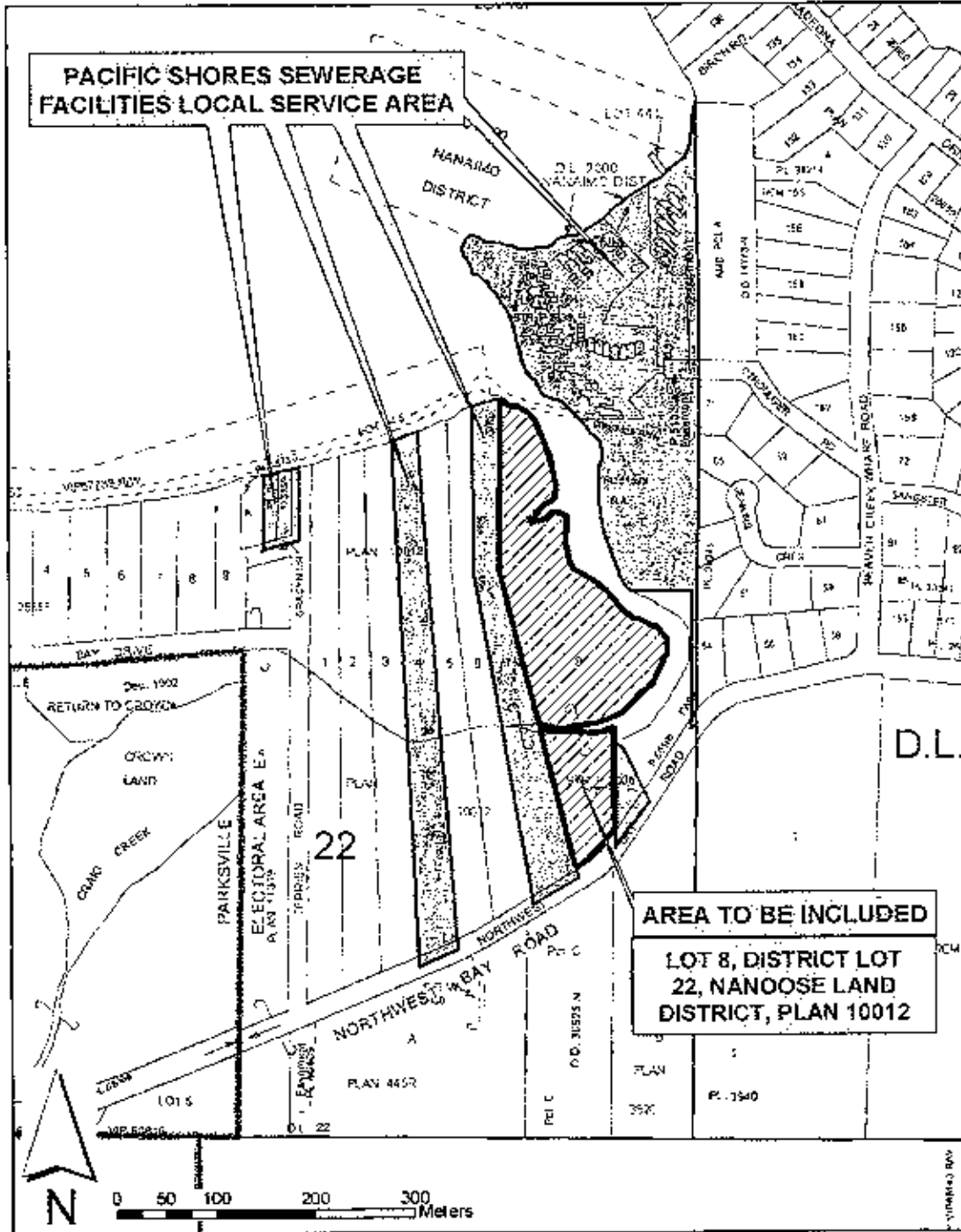
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Manager Concurrence

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
General Manager Concurrence

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CAO Concurrence

COMMENTS:

Figure 1



BCGS Map Sheet No. 065 J0622

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO**

**BYLAW NO. 1021.05**

**A BYLAW TO AMEND THE PACIFIC SHORES  
SEWERAGE FACILITIES LOCAL SERVICE AREA  
ESTABLISHMENT BYLAW NO. 1021**

WHEREAS "Pacific Shores Sewer Local Service Area Establishment Bylaw No. 1021, 1996" established the Pacific Shores Sewer Local Service Area;

AND WHEREAS the Board has been petitioned to expand the local service area;

NOW THEREFORE the Board of the Regional District of Nanaimo, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

1. The boundaries of the Pacific Shores Sewer Local Service Area, established by Bylaw No. 1021, are hereby amended to include the property shown outlined on Schedule 'B' attached hereto and forming part of this bylaw.
2. The amended boundary of the Pacific Shores Sewer Local Service Area shall be as shown outlined on Schedule 'A' attached hereto and forming part of this bylaw.
3. Schedule 'A' of Bylaw No. 1021.04 is hereby repealed.
4. This bylaw may be cited as "Pacific Shores Sewer Local Service Area Amendment Bylaw No. 1021.05, 2004".

Introduced and read three times this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2004.

Received the approval of the Inspector of Municipalities this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2004.

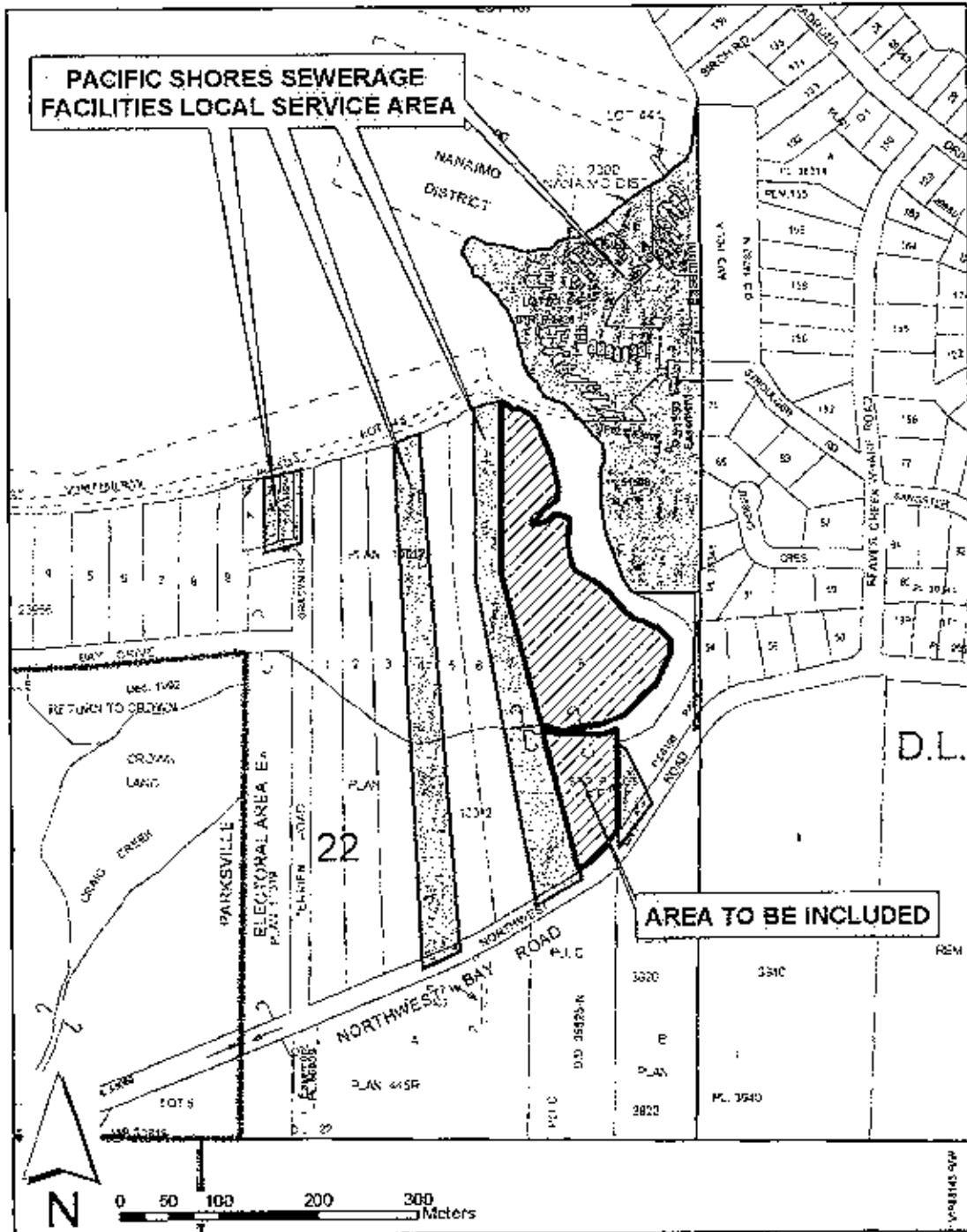
Adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2004.

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIRPERSON

\_\_\_\_\_  
GENERAL MANAGER, CORPORATE SERVICES

Chairperson

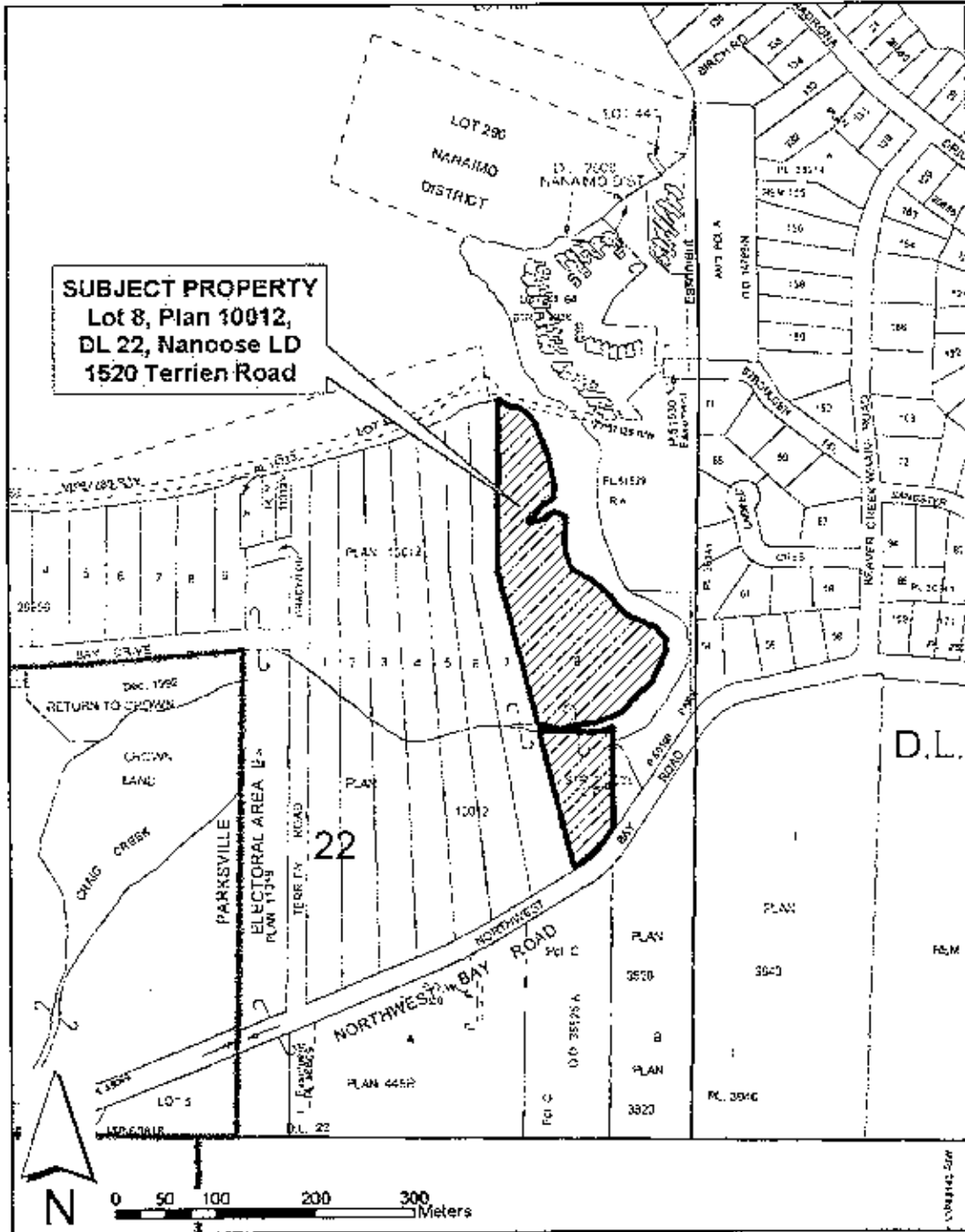
General Manager, Corporate Services



SOCS Map Sheet No. SF-03-22

Chairperson

General Manager, Corporate Services



BCOS Map Sheet No. 025 029 22



**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO**

**BYLAW NO. 889.26**

**A BYLAW TO AMEND THE NORTHERN COMMUNITY  
SEWERAGE FACILITIES LOCAL SERVICE AREA  
ESTABLISHMENT BYLAW NO. 889**

WHEREAS the Board has enacted the "Regional District of Nanaimo Northern Community Sewer Local Service Conversion Bylaw No. 889, 1993", as amended, which establishes the Northern Community Sewer Local Service Area;

AND WHEREAS the Board wishes to amend Schedule 'C' to include the property legally described as Lot 8, District Lot 22, Plan 10012, Nanoose Land District;

AND WHEREAS the Board wishes to amend Schedule 'D' to exclude the property legally described as Lot 8, District Lot 22, Plan 10012, Nanoose Land District;

AND WHEREAS the Board has obtained the consent of at least two thirds of the participants;

NOW THEREFORE the Board of the Regional District of Nanaimo, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

1. This bylaw may be cited as "Regional District of Nanaimo Northern Community Sewer Local Service Area Amendment Bylaw No. 889.26, 2004".
2. Schedules 'C' and 'D' attached to and forming a part of Bylaw No. 889.25 are hereby deleted and replaced with Schedules 'C' and 'D' attached to and forming part of this bylaw.

Introduced and read three times this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2004.

Received the approval of the Inspector of Municipalities this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2004.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2004.

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIRPERSON

\_\_\_\_\_  
GENERAL MANAGER, CORPORATE SERVICES



**b) New Parkland Dedication Policy**

Members received the new Policy provided by staff.

**c) Morden Colliery Trail (MCT) Subcommittee**

- An MCT work party on Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, on the Woobank Road section was very productive with clearing of vegetation around entrances, erecting signs, and pulling out signs from the lake. We are still waiting for a "Trail Crossing" sign, which has been ordered. Placing signs on road allowances involves the Ministry of Transportation. Director Kreiberg will follow up with staff. The April 24<sup>th</sup> "Sign Unveiling" to celebrate the new natural history interpretive sign near the Mine-site, close to the Morden Road entrance, was very successful. (Note: *The Nanaimo Daily News* featured the MCT in today's edition).
- With regard to the recent encroachment issue, Director Kreiberg suggested we clarify survey lines of the trail. Possibly we just need to find the existing survey pins by GPS and metal detector. It was also suggested that we could get survey or civil engineering techs from the Malaspina University-College to survey the boundaries. The RDN should also regularly remind landowners of their trail obligations and boundaries.

MOVED H. Kreiberg, SECONDED F. Garnish, that the Committee recommend that the RDN deliver an immediate notification mail-out to Property Owners adjacent to the Morden Colliery Trail to remind them of the trail's right-of-way width and to check survey data before carrying out land clearing or other modifications; and that the RDN obtain adequate survey information so that adjoining Property Owners along the Morden Colliery Trail can be advised on a regular basis of the specific location of the Morden Colliery Trail right-of-way relative to their property boundaries. CARRIED

**d) New Direction for Trail development**

- The Judson and Thatcher properties were discussed and the question raised whether purchasing the highway/trail right-of-way near these properties will further our aims. This led to a discussion of what members' priorities are – Judy, Joe, Gay and Frank thought the acquisition of land for the MCT trail portion from the Mine site to Kimball Road is key. It should be a good "beginning project" for the Committee and will further our aims to connect over to Wellington/ Minetown Road areas. Barbara felt the bridge is a priority and Director Kreiberg prefers the current prioritized plan, with the MCT trail high on the list. Kerri-Lynne thinks the Yon property portion of the trail should be pursued. Director Kreiberg will refer the question of how we can get the Ministry of Transportation to earmark Highway's right-of-way portion of trail as a parks trail.

MOVED F. Garnish, SECONDED K.L. Wilson, that the further acquisition of the trail portion from Morden Mine site to Kimball Road be actively pursued as a high priority. CARRIED

**e) Other Business**

- Director Kreiberg advised that the developer is again considering developing Boat Harbour. There was discussion of rerouting the MCT from Hemer Park to Boat Harbour onto the local roads. The Committee is adamant that the trail should remain, as well as Swan Island, as is.
- The Committee's Summer project to assess Kipp Road area park dedication was agreed to. Director Kreiberg suggested getting Susan Cormie (RDN Planner) to come out with us in July as she has lots of good ideas.

**QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR**

- Joe asked about RDN policy of partnering with groups such as The Land Conservancy or Ducks Unlimited to acquire parkland. Director Kreiberg advised that this is part of the RDN Parks Acquisition Policy and referenced the Nanaimo River Regional Park as an example. Nanaimo and

Area Land Trust expressed interest in partnering with the RDN on the McCauley property. They should provide a presentation at our next meeting.

- Can the Committee recommend a "donation" be made from the Community Parks budget to help NALT acquire a piece of land? The Director believes that legislation would not allow it. The Chair will refer this question to RDN staff.

#### NEXT MEETING

An informal meeting date was set for Thursday, June 17, 2004, at 7:00 pm at the Crow and Gate. The next formal meeting date is to be confirmed.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9.30 pm.

---

Judy Burgess, Chair

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

MINUTES OF THE AREA 'B' PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2004 AT 7:00 PM  
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE HALL, GABRIOLA ISLAND

**In Attendance**

Don McLaughlin  
Jacqueline Cecil Sears  
Carol Boyce

Michael McCrac  
Randy Young  
Ron Holmes

Kerry Marcus  
Director Gail Lund

**Staff**

Joan Michel

---

Chairman R. Holmes called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

MOVED D. McLaughlin, SECONDED M. McCrac, that the Agenda be adopted. CARRIED

**DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

John Anthony, BC Disk Sport Society, BC Disk Golf Branch

J. Anthony, founder of Nanaimo's Bowen Park Disk Golf Course, presented an overview of the game of disk golf, described various course types, and discussed usage in BC and throughout North America. There is interest in establishing a course in a park on Gabriola, as has been expressed over the last year by M. McCrac and other Gabriola residents. Typically, such courses are free to the public, and popular with people of all ages. It was agreed that the proponents should examine the piece of new community park on the north side of McConvey Road as a potential location. This piece of parkland is adjacent to the Regional Park, where the course equipment could be stored for public use. The proponents should then present the results of their investigation to the POSAC.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOVED K. Marcus, SECONDED C. Boyce, that the Minutes of the 8 March 2004 Area 'B' Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee (POSAC) regular meeting be approved, further to a correction to the spelling of Committee member J. Cecil Sears' name. CARRIED

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

Name for the New Community Park and Snuneymuxw Names Working Group

J. Michel reported that further investigation with the Snuneymuxw First Nation confirmed that the new community park property per se was of no significance historically insofar as it was not distinguished by name. Consequently, the standing recommendation of the Committee to call the new park Cox Community Park will be forwarded to the Regional Board for approval. A naming ceremony for the new park will be held in conjunction with the boardwalk development project, and will involve the Cox family. As concerns First Nation names, the Snuneymuxw Names Working Group led by C. Boyce will continue to explore the introduction of Snuneymuxw names to parks, trails and beach accesses, e.g. El Verano, through signage and other interpretive material.

### Environmental Features Working Group

A working group is to be formed to consider, document, interpret, communicate and advise in respect of environmental features and issues within Area 'B' parks and open spaces. Committee members were asked to recommend and solicit membership from the community.

### Donated Benches and other Fixtures

Following a brief discussion, the subject is to be revisited.

## COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Chairman Holmes sent an e-mail of thanks to the Gabriola Soccer Association for their work on keeping and upgrading the soccer field at Rollo McClay Community Park.

R. Young's notice in *The Sounder's* volunteer recruiting section was noted; it has produced some good results.

## BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS, COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

The Committee agreed to hold the next regular POSAC meeting outside at Descanso Bay Regional Park so that the Committee can go onto the neighbouring community park to review a proposed disk golf course.

## REPORTS

### Director's Update

Director Lund explained the Official Community Plan density transfer option. As owners of the new community park, the RDN, on behalf of Electoral Area 'B,' has four density transfers available to eligible owners of resource-zoned lands in return for park and trail. The RDN will be posting a public request for proposals in the Sounder. Director Lund noted that work is proceeding on the El Verano boat launch upgrade.

### Descanso Bay Regional Park (DBRP)

J. Michel advised that a five-year contract is being concluded for the operation of the Park. Plans to bring the house on the point back into operation have been advanced and it is expected that the deck, if not also the front room, will be available for use under special permit in 2004 or 2005. Within the Park, work will commence this year on creating a buffer around the active eagle tree in the day use area. Committee members discussed the creation of a trail link between the regional park and the community park across Taylor Bay Road. At issue is the safe crossing of Taylor Bay Road. A trail location is to be examined when the POSAC meets at Descanso Bay Regional Park.

### Beach Access Working Group

R. Young provided an updated beach access inventory and asked that Committee members ground truth the site and condition codes. Work has been undertaken on clearing, tidying, and marking a number of

the accesses, especially the ones identified by the Committee as high priority. Those not requiring development by the RDN and hence formal permits from the Ministry of Transportation will be the focus of community volunteer improvement effort. R. Young to work with J. Lobb, RDN Parks Technician, on resolution of the steps problem at Spring Beach (beach access #44). R. Young's many efforts in support of improving beach accesses, parks and trails were applauded. J. Michel reported that the survey-design work for the parking lot upgrade at the El Verano boat launch is complete, and that a productive meeting was held with Mudge Island and El Verano Drive residents on the management of the parking lot. It has been agreed that a portion of the parking lot will be reserved for permanent Mudge Island residents.

#### Community Parks

Jake Belobaba, RDN Parks Assistant, will be spearheading the work on the boardwalk in the new community park with the help of R. Young and D. McLaughlin. R. Young to work with J. Lobb to resolve the steps issue at Joyce Lockwood Community Park. R. Young, J. Michel and Fire Chief Jackson met at the Fleet Street Park to review wood chip surface material laid down on the trail. Wood chips there, at the Decourcey Dr. Park and elsewhere as applicable, are to be monitored for fire hazard by R. Young.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### Volunteer Appreciation

Duke Fleming has provided many years of grass cutting at Hummingbird Park (#B-05) but because of health concerns may no longer be able to do so. The Committee agreed that Mr. Fleming should be publicly recognized for his service with a certificate of appreciation. The idea of establishing a volunteer appreciation program was discussed. J. Michel to discuss further with Director Lund.

##### Request for \$400 from Gabriola Soccer Association

The Association has requested financial assistance with excavation costs for the upgrade to Rollo McClay.

MOVED R. Young, SECONDED K. Marcus, that the Gabriola Soccer Association be provided with a cheque for \$400 from the Community Parks budget to help pay for excavation work at the Rollo McClay soccer field. CARRIED

#### **COMMITTEE ROUND TABLE**

Deferred.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held outside at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, June 23, 2004 at Descanso Bay Regional Park.

#### **IN CAMERA**

MOVED G. Lund, SECONDED D. McLaughlin, that pursuant to Section 242.2 (1)(e) of *The Local Government Act*, the Committee proceed to an In Camera meeting to consider the acquisition of land. CARRIED

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED G. Lund, SECONDED D. McLaughlin, that the regular meeting be adjourned to allow for an In Camera meeting. **CARRIED**

**TIME: 8:40 PM**

---

R. Holmes  
Chairman



**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO**

**MINUTES OF THE  
REGIONAL GROWTH MONITORING ADVISORY COMMITTEE /  
STATE OF SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT MEETING  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 2004  
IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM**

**Present:**

Director Bill Holdom	Chair
Director Dave Bartram	Deputy Chair
Brian Anderson	
Douglas Anderson	
Betty Collins	
Ross Peterson	
Sharon Thomson	
Sylvia Neden	

**Also in attendance:**

Christina Thomas	Senior Planner, Community Services
Neil Concilly	General Manager, Community Services

**Absent:**

Gordon Buckingham  
Janet Farooq  
Adele McKillop

**CALL TO ORDER**

In the absence of the Committee Chair Director Holdom at the beginning of the meeting, the Committee Deputy Chair Director Bartram called the meeting to order at approximately 7:20 pm and chaired the meeting.

**MINUTES**

Director Bartram asked about the reference to the minor adjustments to be made to the sustainability community wall chart information cited in the minutes of the May 5, 2004 Regional Growth Monitoring Advisory Committee.

C. Thomas responded that minor wording adjustments were made to the wall chart information at the Committee's direction. It was noted that the phrase, "governments have instituted a flexible culture of creativity through communication and coordination to establish and maintain an environment conducive to economic development," was changed to "communication, coordination and creativity establish and maintain an environment conducive to economic development".

Director Bartram suggested that the minutes concerning the agenda item, "Public Event #1 – Open Space Issue Discussion," be amended by deleting the phrase, "and was not intended to provide information to support the development of sustainability indicators". The Committee concurred, and the minutes were received as amended.

Director Bartram asked about what happened at the informal group discussion that took place at the end of the May 5, 2004 meeting. Committee members that participated responded that four or five members had an informal offsite social discussion about the Project.

## NEW BUSINESS

### a) *Public Event #1 – Workshop Report*

The Committee reviewed the May 14, 2004 report, "Sustainability Project: Public Event #1 – Sustainability Workshop Report." C. Thomas provided an overview regarding the purpose of the Sustainability Workshop Report, its components, and how it was prepared. C. Thomas noted that pictures taken at the Workshop could be included in the Report.

The Committee received the May 14, 2004 report, "Sustainability Project: Public Event #1 – Sustainability Workshop Report", requested that pictures taken at the Sustainability Workshop be incorporated into the Workshop Report, directed that the Workshop Report be forwarded to the RDN Committee of the Whole and Board for information and receipt, and requested that a PowerPoint presentation about the Workshop that includes pictures taken at the Workshop be delivered to the Committee of the Whole by the Committee Chair and Deputy Chair. Staff indicated that the next Committee of the Whole meeting that the Report could be considered is on Tuesday, June 22, 2004 at 7:30 pm.

### b) *Public Event #1 – Committee Recommendations to Board Regarding Sustainability Workshop*

The Committee reviewed the May 14 report, "Sustainability Project: Public Event #1 – Committee Recommendations to the Board."

C. Thomas indicated that the Committee may develop recommendations to the Board in regard to feedback received at the Sustainability Workshop at its discretion, and that the next major deliverable specified in the terms of reference for the Sustainability Project is the development and confirmation of a set of indicators of sustainability.

Each Committee member expressed their opinions regarding the development of recommendations to the Board given the feedback received at the Sustainability Workshop and the next steps that should be taken in the Sustainability Project.

The Committee discussed the recommendations that Mark Holland made in his Sustainability Workshop presentation regarding how the Regional District of Nanaimo could be made more sustainable (i.e. the ones identified on page 10 of the May 14, 2004 draft Workshop Report).

The Committee requested staff to develop recommendation wording with the Committee Chair based on the Committee's discussion for consideration and finalization by Committee members via e-mail so that it can be forwarded to the June 22, 2004 Committee of the Whole meeting for consideration along with the Workshop Report, and requested that additional Committee discussion and work take place prior to the development and confirmation of a set of indicators of sustainability.

#### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was set for Thursday, June 24, 2004 at 7:00 pm in the RDN Committee Room. The purpose of the next meeting will be to obtain Committee perspectives regarding the next steps to take in the Sustainability Project. Staff was requested to develop a framework to help structure this discussion.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Director Bartram adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:15 PM.

*Original Signed By*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Chair, Director Bartram

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

MINUTES OF THE DISTRICT 69 RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR  
MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 2004, AT 1:00 PM  
AT OCEANSIDE PLACE

**Attendance:**

Frank Van Eynde  
Dave Bartram

Eve Flynn  
Chris Burger

Jack Wilson

**Staff:**

Tom Osborne  
Marilynn Newsted, Recording Secretary

Neil Connelly

Dan Porteous

**Regrets:**

Patty Biro

Craig Young

---

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Van Eynde called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Chair Van Eynde introduced and welcomed Mr. Burger to the Commission. Commissioner Burger will replace Commissioner Demmon as the City of Parksville representative.

**MINUTES**

- 3.1 Noted error in the District 69 Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes held on May 13, 2004, under Commissioner Roundtable. Second paragraph should read: *The Arrowsmith Coombs Country Business Association will be a sub committee of the Arrowsmith Community Enhancement Society (ACES).*

MOVED Commissioner Bartram, SECONDED Commissioner Nosworthy, that the Minutes of the District 69 Recreation Commission Regular Meeting held on May 13, 2004, be approved.

CARRIED

- 3.2 MOVED Commissioner Flynn, SECONDED Commissioner Nosworthy, that the Minutes of the District 69 Recreation Commission Fees and Charges Committee Meeting held on May 17, 2004, be approved.

CARRIED

**COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE**

- 4 MOVED Commissioner Bartram, SECONDED Commissioner Wilson, that the correspondence received from the Kwaleicum Secondary School Music Parents Committee and Oceanside Track and Field Club be received.

CARRIED

MOVED Commissioner Wilson, SECONDED Commissioner Bartram, that the late correspondence received from Amanda Hill, be received.

CARRIED

## FUNCTION REPORTS

- 5 Mr. Osborne presented the Function Reports from the Ravensong Aquatic Centre, Oceanside Place and Recreation Coordinating.

Mr. Osborne reported that Oceanside Place received the Outstanding Facility Award from the Recreation Facility Association of BC (RFABC) at their annual conference in Duncan.

Mr. Osborne reported Programmer Jennifer Merner, currently on maternity leave, has accepted the permanent part-time Programmer position posted in May.

Mr. Osborne presented a verbal report for the Regional Parks and Trail and Community Parks (EA 'E'-'H') function. He stated the ten-year lease for Oakdowne Park Crown land had expired. He noted a meeting has been scheduled with staff and Land and Water BC representatives to discuss the property.

Mr. Osborne reported the boat launch access on Gabriola Island used by Mudge Island residents has been noted as a historical First Nations area. He stated staff is proceeding with the appropriate archeological protocol with regard to the sensitivity of the area.

MOVED Commissioner Flynn, SECONDED Commissioner Nosworthy, that the Function Reports be received. CARRIED

## NEW BUSINESS

- 8.1 MOVED Commissioner Flynn, SECONDED Commissioner Bartram, that the adoption of rates be implemented each calendar year for Recreation Coordinating, January 1<sup>st</sup>; Ravensong Aquatic Centre, January 1<sup>st</sup>; and Oceanside Place, September 1<sup>st</sup>. CARRIED

- 8.2 MOVED Commissioner Bartram, SECONDED Commissioner Nosworthy, that a common rate for Oceanside Place and Ravensong Aquatic Centre not be pursued. CARRIED

- 8.3 MOVED Commissioner Bartram, SECONDED Commissioner Wilson, that the revised Fees and Charges Policy C2.1 be approved. CARRIED

- 8.4 MOVED Commissioner Bartram, SECONDED Commissioner Flynn, that the 2005 Recreation Program Coordinating Function revenues be increased by 1.5% for 2005. CARRIED

MOVED Commissioner Bartram, SECONDED Commissioner Nosworthy, that the Recreation Coordinating Function program recovery rates be maintained to include Preschool, Children, Youth and Community Cooperative at 100%, Adults at 125%, Summer Camps and Family at 75% and Volunteer and Leadership Development programs at 50%, along with the Administration fee of 15%, and a 75-25% split guideline for Term Instructors (Companies). CARRIED

- 8.5 Commissioner Van Eynde abstained from the vote.

MOVED Commissioner Bartram, SECONDED Commissioner Wilson, that the non-service-area surcharge at Ravensong Aquatic Centre be removed as of January 1, 2005. CARRIED

-----

MOVED Commissioner Bartram, SECONDED Commissioner Burger, that the rentals and admission fees for 2005 at Ravensong Aquatic Centre be approved as detailed in Appendix II of the report and that the attached five year forecast chart in the report be used as a guideline.

CARRIED

- 8.6 MOVED Commissioner Bartram, SECONDED Commissioner Burger, that the rentals and admission fees for 2004/2005 at Oceanside Place be approved as detailed in Appendix I of the report and that the attached five year forecast chart in the report be used as a guideline.

CARRIED

#### COMMISSIONER ROUNDTABLE

- 10 Commissioner Bartram thanked Mr. Osborne for his comprehensive information with regard to District 69 Recreation Services Fees and Charges. He also noted Canada Day in Lighthouse Country will run July 1<sup>st</sup> to July 4<sup>th</sup>, with events happening all four days.

Commissioner Flynn reported the School District 69 budget was forwarded for approval May 31, 2004. Due to the budget the school calendar will be adjusted by seven days for the elementary and middle schools. Four days will be taken in September with classes beginning September 13, 2004 and the remaining three days will be taken in June 2005. The high schools will begin classes four days later in September but will not have any other reductions as provincial exams are written in June.

Commissioner Burger congratulated staff on their efforts in bringing the project of Oceanside Place to completion.

#### ADJOURMENT

MOVED Commissioner Bartram that the meeting be adjourned at 1:40 pm.

#### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held Thursday, September 16, 2004, at 1:00 pm at Oceanside Place, in Multipurpose Room 1.

---

Frank Van Eynde, Chair



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO			
JUN 16 2004			
CHAIR		GMCrS	
CAO		GMDS	
SS/CrS		GMES	

MEMORANDUM

TO: Neil Connelly  
General Manager of Community Services

DATE: June 16, 2004

FROM: Tom Osborne  
Manager of Recreation and Parks

FILE:

SUBJECT: District 69 Recreation Services Fees and Charges

PURPOSE

To propose recreation program fees, rental fees and admission charges for consideration as per the 2004 Five Year Financial Plan for District 69 recreation functions, which include Ravensong Aquatic Centre, Oceanside Place, and Recreation Coordinating, and to provide a revised Recreation Fees and Charges Policy C2.1 with housekeeping amendments.

BACKGROUND

As per Policy C2.1, the Recreation Fees and Charges Committee of the District 69 Recreation Commission meets annually to review and make recommendations on fees and charges for the District 69 recreation services, including program fees for Recreation Coordinating, and program fees, admission and rental fees for the Ravensong Aquatic Centre and Oceanside Place.

The Committee's recommendations from the spring of 2003 concerning fees and charges for Oceanside Place were implemented later in September of that year when the facility opened and remain effective until August 31, 2004. Implementation of recommendations for Recreation Coordinating and Ravensong Aquatic Centre took place in January of 2004 and remain in effect until December 31, 2004.

With the requirement for Regional District to adopt a Five-Year Financial Plan, it is advantageous to review proposed rates in correlation with the Financial Plan.

The adopted rates would be implemented as follows:

- Recreation Coordinating January 1<sup>st</sup> of each calendar year
- Ravensong Aquatic Centre January 1<sup>st</sup> of each calendar year
- Oceanside Place September 1<sup>st</sup> of each calendar year

The adopted Five Year Financial Plan proposes function revenue increases as follows:

**Recreation Coordinating**

Category	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Program Fees	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%

**Oceanside Place**

Category	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Program Fees	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%
Admissions	2.0%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%
Rental Fees	15.5%	4.5%	4.5%	4.5%	4.5%

**Ravensong Aquatic Centre**

Category	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Program Fees	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
Admissions	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	1.5%
Rental Fees	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%

**Common Admission Fees for Oceanside Place and Ravensong Aquatic Centre**

At the June 12, 2003 Regular Meeting of the District 69 Recreation Commission, staff were requested to review the alteration of the rate structure for single users and families to provide a common rate for Oceanside Place and the Ravensong Aquatic Centre, in addition to the annual fees and charges review process.

To provide the same fee rates at the two recreation facilities presents a unique challenge given the two facilities receive different tax subsidy support from the District 69 Electoral Areas and municipalities. All four northern Electoral Areas (E, F, G, H) and the two municipalities of Parksville and Qualicum Beach financially subsidize through taxes the operation of Oceanside Place. This is not the same for the Ravensong Aquatic Centre of which Electoral Area 'E', Nanoose Bay, does not contribute.

Rates at the Ravensong Aquatic Centre are higher than those for the arena in order to lessen the annual subsidy. To combine the rates for both facilities either mean raising the admission rates at Oceanside Place to be equal with those at Ravensong's or to lower the rates at Ravensong and anticipate that the recovery rate may be lower in the future. Given the tight financial controls currently required at both of these facilities, it is recommended at this time not to pursue a common rate.



**Recreation Fees and Charges Policy C2.1**

With the operation of the Oceanside Place now underway, the Recreation Fees and Charges has been amended to capture updated rate structures and in addition, other house keeping amendments have been made to clarify the policy. The revised Policy is attached as Appendix III.

**2004 / 2005 Proposed Fees and Charges and Oceanside Place Acoustical Baffles**

At the May 11, 2004 Regional Board Regular Meeting the following resolutions were approved:

*That the 2004 Annual Budget be adjusted and the Five Year Financial Plan be amended to provide for acoustical treatment estimated at \$60,000 in the Howie Meeker Arena for 2004, funded from the prior year surplus, and the Victor Kraatz Arena acoustical treatment estimated at \$50,000 be deferred and considered as part of the 2005 annual budget process.*

*That the District 69 Recreation Commission factor in the increased capital costs in their annual review of fees and charges for Oceanside Place that will take place during May and June for approval by the Regional Board.*

*That increases in fees and charges for Oceanside Place shall be used:*

- a) to replenish the surplus of \$60,000 used to fund the Howie Meeker Arena acoustic treatment for 2004;*
- b) to meet the capital costs of acoustic treatment for the Victor Kraatz Arena;*
- c) thereafter to increase general revenue for the arena.*

The District 69 Recreation Commission Fees and Charges Committee took the above resolutions into consideration in their review of rental fees and admission rates for Oceanside Place. Fees have been raised aggressively for the 2004 / 2005 season to be at par with neighbouring municipally or regionally operated facilities without losing market share. In some cases, such as senior rates, they remain below the market rate but will be inline with the market rate for the 2005 / 2006 season as agreed upon by the Regional Board in the spring of 2003.

The increased rates will assist in replenishing the surplus of \$60,000 to be used to fund the acoustical treatment of the Howie Meeker Arena in 2004. Baffling for the Victor Kraatz Arena will not be achievable in 2005 and will not be implemented until the surplus funds have been replenished in future years upon review during the Annual Budget process and Five Year Financial Plan. In addition, at the time of Annual Budget review, the actual facility operating costs will be available as the building will have been in place for over a year.

After reviewing market rates of other Mid Island Parks and Recreation Departments it has been determined that in 2004 and 2005 there is some allowance for increases to various fees and charges in the remaining two other Functions, Recreation Coordinating and the Ravensong Aquatic Centre.

It is important to note that with all rate increases, the market threshold will ultimately determine the increase or decrease in actual revenue. For example, raising rates by 2% may not necessarily correlate in an increase in revenues; in actuality it may have an adverse affect on revenues. Mid Island and Vancouver Island rates are included as background for comparison purposes.

The Five Year Financial Plan and the Five Year Recreation Services Fees and Charges Chart will be reviewed as part of the 2005 Annual budget process to ensure the revenue projections within the Plan are attainable through current and future market rates. The rates provided in Appendix I and II meet the 2005 projected revenue targets as they pertain to admissions, rentals and program fees.

#### ALTERNATIVES

1. To approve the 2005 Recreation Program Coordinating Function fees increase at 1.5% for 2005, the rental and admission fees for 2004 / 2005 at Oceanside Place as detailed in Appendix I and the rental and admission fees for 2005 at Ravensong Aquatic Centre as detailed in Appendix II.
2. Not approve the fees and charges proposed and provide alternative direction.

#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Recreation Coordinating - It is proposed that program revenues increase annually by 1.5% from the periods of 2005-2009.

Oceanside Place - It is proposed that the rates increase as outlined on Appendix I. Admissions in 2004 / 2005 will see varying increases depending on the age grouping. The majority of the 2003 / 2004 admission rates were below mid island market rates. The proposed increases bring the rates up to the market rate or remain just below to remain competitive and draw more users. Senior admission rates will increase accordingly to meet the mid island average by the 05 /06 season as agreed upon by the Regional Board in 2003. The majority of rental rates for the 04/05 season increase by 5% with the exception of minor groups, which is set for a 3% increase as the existing rate is at market rate.

Ravensong Aquatic Centre - It is proposed that rates increase by 1.5% in 2005 then by 2% from 2006-2009 as outlined in Appendix II.

#### CITIZEN IMPLICATIONS

Participation in recreational activities is a healthy choice that residents and visitors decide to do. If the financial barriers limit their ability to participate they either choose another option that doesn't require a fee or stop being active altogether. The financial bottom line is just one factor that has to be considered; the social and healthy well being of area residents also has to be brought into focus.

Should the proposed fees and charges provide a financial barrier to some residents, additional support can be provided through the Financial Access Program provided through the RDN Recreation and Parks Department.

## SUMMARY

Program fees and charges for the three District 69 recreation service function areas are required to be set for the upcoming 2004/2005 season. As part of the Recreation Fees and Charges Policy C2.1, the District 69 Recreation Commission Fees and Charges Committee is required to review the various rates for the three function areas, which includes District 69 Recreation Coordinating, Oceanside Place and the Ravensong Aquatic Centre and provide a recommendation to the District 69 Recreation Commission and Regional Board for consideration.

In setting the rates a variety of factors have been considered which are as follows: Vancouver Island market rates, Mid Island averages from other jurisdictions that provide public recreation services, projected revenue targets in the Five Year Financial Plan, and the Regional Board May 11, 2004 direction to factor in the increased capital costs for Oceanside Place acoustical treatments.


The rates proposed meet the 2005 projected revenue targets as they pertain to admissions, rentals and program fees. The Five Year Financial Plan will be reviewed as part of the 2005 Annual Budget process to ensure the revenue projections within the Plan remain attainable after factoring in future market rates.

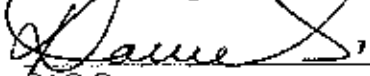
With the operation of the Oceanside Place now underway, the Recreation Fees and Charges has been amended to capture updated rate structures and in addition, other house keeping amendments have been made to clarify the policy as noted in Appendix III. The new rates also reflect the Regional Board motion of May 11, 2004 that provide for fees and charges for Oceanside Place to replenish the surplus funds used for acoustic treatment improvements.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To approve the 2005 Recreation Program Coordinating Function fees increase at 1.5% for 2005, the rental and admission fees for 2004 / 2005 at Oceanside Place as detailed in Appendix I and the rental and admission fees for 2005 at Ravensong Aquatic Centre as detailed in Appendix II.
2. To approve the revised Recreation Fees and Charges Policy C2.1 as detailed in Appendix III.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Manager of Recreation and Parks

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
General Manager Concurrence

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CAO Concurrence

## COMMENTS:

## APPENDIX I

### OCEANSIDE PLACE ADMISSIONS

Note: All prices include GST. 10 X Passes = 9 Single Admissions.

Category	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Children (0-14)	1.90	2.20	2.25	2.30	2.35	2.40
Youth (15-18)	2.30	2.70	2.90	2.95	3.00	3.10
Adult (19-54)	4.00	4.20	4.30	4.35	4.45	4.55
Senior (55+)	2.20	2.75	3.00	3.05	3.10	3.20
Family	7.25	8.00	8.15	8.30	8.50	8.65
Family w/ Rentals	11.30	12.50	12.75	13.00	13.25	13.55
Parent and Tot	4.60	4.85	4.95	5.05	5.15	5.25
Child Skate Rental	1.55	1.65	1.70	1.70	1.75	1.80
Youth / Adult / Senior Skate Rental Rentals	2.70	2.85	2.90	2.95	3.00	3.10
SD #69 Skate Rental	1.55	1.65	1.70	1.70	1.75	1.80
Skate Sharpening	4.20	4.45	4.55	4.65	4.70	4.80

### OCEANSIDE PLACE RENTALS

#### Tournament Rates

Adult Tournament	98.07	98.07	100.03	102.03	104.07	106.15
Senior Tournament	90.95	95.50	97.41	99.36	101.34	103.37
Minor Tournament	55.70	58.49	59.65	60.85	62.06	63.31
Commercial Events Prime	NEW	135.00	137.70	140.45	143.26	146.13
Commercial Events Non Prime	NEW	115.00	117.30	119.65	122.04	124.48

#### Winter Rates (September 1 - March 31)

Adult Prime	120.00	126.00	128.52	131.09	133.71	136.39
Adult Non Prime	98.07	102.97	105.03	107.13	109.28	111.46
Minor Prime	65.00	66.95	68.29	69.65	71.05	72.47
Minor Non Prime	55.70	58.49	59.65	60.85	62.06	63.31
Senior Prime	120.00	126.00	128.52	131.09	133.71	136.39
Senior Non Prime	90.95	95.50	97.41	99.36	101.34	103.37
Hockey / Skating Schools	120.00	126.00	128.52	131.09	133.71	136.39
School Rentals Prime	65.00	65.00	66.30	67.63	68.98	70.36
School Rentals Non Prime	55.70	58.49	59.65	60.85	62.06	63.31
Commercial Events Prime	190.00	199.50	203.49	207.56	211.71	215.95
Commercial Events Non Prime	150.00	157.50	160.65	163.86	167.14	170.48

Note: Commercial Events Daily Rate is Hourly Rates x 10 hours or 15% of Gross Rev.

Portable Floor cost = staff costs for install, cleaning and removal.

Non Profit events will be charged applicable hourly rate as defined by demographic of group and time of day.

Category	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
<b>Shoulder Season Rates (April 1 - August 31)</b>						
Adult Prime	102.00	107.10	109.24	111.43	113.66	115.93
Adult Non Prime	83.35	87.52	89.27	91.05	92.87	94.73
Minor prime	55.25	58.01	59.17	60.36	61.56	62.79
Minor Non Prime	47.35	49.72	50.71	51.73	52.76	53.82
Senior Prime	102.00	107.10	109.24	111.43	113.66	115.93
Senior Non Prime	80.25	84.26	85.95	87.67	89.42	91.21
Hockey / Skating Schools	88.26	92.67	94.53	96.42	98.35	100.31
School Rentals Prime	55.25	58.01	59.17	60.36	61.56	62.79
School Rentals Non Prime	47.35	49.72	50.71	51.73	52.76	53.82
Commercial Events Prime	175.00	183.75	187.43	191.17	195.00	198.90
Commercial Events Non Prime	100.00	105.00	107.10	109.24	111.43	113.66
<b>Dry Floor</b>						
Adult Prime	55.00	57.75	58.91	60.08	61.28	62.51
Adult Non Prime	45.00	47.25	48.20	49.16	50.14	51.14
Minor prime	40.00	42.00	42.84	43.70	44.57	45.46
Minor Non Prime	35.00	36.75	37.49	38.23	38.99	39.78
Senior Prime	55.00	57.75	58.91	60.08	61.28	62.51
Senior Non Prime	40.00	42.00	42.84	43.70	44.57	45.46
Hockey / Skating Schools Prime	60.00	63.00	64.26	65.55	66.86	68.19
School Rentals Prime	40.00	42.00	42.84	43.70	44.57	45.46
School Rentals Non Prime	35.00	36.75	37.49	38.23	38.99	39.78
Commercial Events Prime	175.00	183.75	187.43	191.17	195.00	198.90
Commercial Events Non Prime	100.00	105.00	107.10	109.24	111.43	113.66
Commercial Events Set Up	50.00	52.50	53.55	54.62	55.71	56.83
<b>Other Amenities</b>						
<b>The Pond (Leisure Ice)</b>						
Ice In Prime	35.00	39.90	40.70	41.51	42.34	43.19
Ice In Non Prime	30.00	34.20	34.88	35.58	36.29	37.02
Ice In in conjunction with full sheet	15.00	17.10	17.44	17.79	18.15	18.51
Ice Out Prime	25.00	28.50	29.07	29.65	30.24	30.85
Ice Out Non Prime	20.00	22.80	23.26	23.72	24.20	24.68
Ice Out In Conjunction with full sheet	15.00	17.10	17.44	17.79	18.15	18.51
<b>Multipurpose Room</b>						
Full Room	30.00	31.50	32.13	32.77	33.43	34.10
Half Room	15.00	15.75	16.07	16.39	16.71	17.05
Commercial Full Room	35.00	36.75	37.49	38.23	39.00	39.78
Commercial Half Room	20.00	21.00	21.42	21.85	22.29	22.73
Full Room w/ Ice/Floor Rental		21.00	21.42	21.85	22.29	22.73
Half Room w/ Ice/Floor Rental		10.50	10.71	10.92	11.14	11.37
<b>Meeting Room (Note: All regular Ice User Groups will have 3 hrs/month free access)</b>						
Meeting Room	5.00	5.00	5.10	5.20	5.31	5.41
Meeting Room w/ Ice / Floor rental	5.00	5.00	5.10	5.20	5.31	5.41

## APPENDIX II

### Ravensong Aquatic Centre Admissions

Note: All prices include GST. 10 X Passes = 9 Single Admissions.

Non-resident surcharge of 20% will be applied.

Category	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Children (0-14)	2.70	2.75	2.80	2.85	2.90	2.95
Youth (15-18)	3.35	3.40	3.50	3.55	3.65	3.70
Adult (19-54)	4.45	4.55	4.65	4.70	4.80	4.90
Senior (55+)	3.60	3.65	3.75	3.80	3.90	3.95
Family	8.40	8.55	8.75	8.90	9.10	9.25
Aquafit - Adult	5.40	5.50	5.60	5.75	5.85	5.95
Aquafit - Senior	4.55	4.65	4.75	4.85	4.95	5.00

### Monthly Passes

#### 3 Months

Children	113.73	116.00	118.32	120.69	123.11	124.95
Youth	81.33	82.96	84.62	86.31	88.03	89.35
Adult	62.09	63.33	64.60	65.89	67.21	68.22
Senior	85.88	87.60	89.35	91.14	92.96	94.35
Family	218.78	223.16	227.62	232.17	236.81	240.37

#### 6 Months

Children	201.82	205.86	209.97	214.17	218.46	221.73
Youth	138.57	141.34	144.17	147.05	149.99	152.24
Adult	113.28	115.55	117.86	120.21	122.62	124.46
Senior	147.66	150.61	153.63	156.70	159.83	162.23
Family	382.88	390.54	398.35	406.32	414.44	420.66

### Ravensong Aquatic Centre Rentals

#### Children's Community Groups + Schools

Main Pool	66.34	67.34	68.35	69.37	70.41	71.47
Whirl-Leisure Pool	33.18	33.68	34.18	34.70	35.22	35.74
Per Lane	11.25	11.42	11.59	11.76	11.94	12.12
Pool All	99.52	101.01	102.53	104.07	105.63	107.21

#### Youth Community Groups

Main Pool	74.49	75.61	76.74	77.89	79.06	80.25
Whirl-Leisure Pool	37.24	37.80	38.37	38.94	39.53	40.12
Per Lane	12.53	12.72	12.91	13.10	13.30	13.50
Pool All	111.73	113.41	115.11	116.83	118.59	120.36

Category	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
<b>Adult Community Groups</b>						
Main Pool	98.90	100.38	101.89	103.42	104.97	106.54
Whirl-Leisure Pool	49.45	50.19	50.94	51.71	52.48	53.27
Per Lane	16.59	16.84	17.09	17.35	17.61	17.87
Pool All	148.35	150.58	152.83	155.13	157.45	159.82
<b>Swim Club - Children</b>						
Main Pool	68.30	69.32	70.36	71.42	72.49	73.58
Whirl-Leisure Pool	34.15	34.66	35.18	35.71	36.25	36.79
Per Lane	11.59	11.76	11.94	12.12	12.30	12.49
Pool All	102.45	103.99	105.55	107.13	108.74	110.37
<b>Swim Club - Youth</b>						
Main Pool	76.68	77.83	79.00	80.19	81.39	82.61
Whirl-Leisure Pool	38.34	38.92	39.50	40.09	40.69	41.30
Per Lane	12.92	13.11	13.31	13.51	13.71	13.92
Pool All	115.02	116.75	118.50	120.27	122.08	123.91
<b>Swim Club - Adult</b>						
Main Pool	101.81	103.34	104.89	106.46	108.06	109.68
Whirl-Leisure Pool	50.89	51.65	52.43	53.21	54.01	54.82
Per Lane	17.08	17.34	17.60	17.86	18.13	18.40
Pool All	152.71	155.00	157.33	159.69	162.08	164.51
<b>Birthday Party Rental/Program</b>						
1 hr (pool only)	55.62	56.45	57.30	58.16	59.03	59.92
1 1/2 (pool + party)	141.38	143.50	145.65	147.84	150.06	152.31
<b>Commercial &amp; Out of Service Area Users</b>						
Main Pool	165.25	167.73	170.24	172.80	175.39	178.02
Whirl-Leisure Pool	82.62	83.86	85.12	86.39	87.69	89.01
Per Lane	27.54	27.95	28.37	28.80	29.23	29.67
Pool All	265.21	269.19	273.23	277.32	281.48	285.71
<b>Guards</b>						
Additional Guard(s) per 1 hr sessions	29.24	29.82	30.42	31.03	31.65	32.28

**APPENDIX III**  
**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO**  
**POLICY**

<b>SUBJECT:</b> <i>Recreation Fees and Charges</i>	<b>POLICY NO.:</b> C2.1 <b>CROSS REF.:</b>
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b> June 13, 1995	<b>APPROVED BY:</b> Board
<b>REVISION DATE:</b> June 1, 2004	<b>PAGE:</b> 1 of 5

**PURPOSE**

To establish criteria and rate schedules to be applied to recreation facilities and programs.

**POLICY**

This policy pertains to three functions of the Department that are supported within District 69 only including recreation Coordinating, Oceanside Place and the Ravensong Aquatic Centre. The policy does not include the Gabriola Island Recreation function or the Regional and Community Parks function.

**Program/Rental Fees and Charges**

Fees and charges for recreation programs and facility rentals in District 69 shall be established based upon the following criteria:

1. All recreation program fees will be based upon a recovery of direct program costs.
2. Rental rates and admission fees for Oceanside Place and Ravensong Aquatic Centre shall be calculated based upon a percentage recovery of operating costs.
3. Philosophically, facility fees and rentals will reflect the ability of various user groups to pay for services; therefore, children, youth and seniors pay less than adults, and with respect to facility rentals, recreational users will be charged less than commercial users.

Some programs may also be targeted to reflect the ability of the user group to pay, for example, adult programs may have a higher cost recovery to offset other preschool, children and youth programs, or some programs may have lower cost recovery targets such as leadership and family oriented programs.

4. Special fees, to be called Seed Programs, may exist for new programs to support first time participation and/or start up costs.



***Administration of Program / Rental Fees and Charges***

1. The Manager of Recreation and Parks will call an annual meeting to involve members of the District 69 Recreation Commission's Fees and Charges Committee and staff to review the following information and make recommendations for consideration by the District 69 Recreation Commission to be forwarded to the Regional Board for approval for the coming calendar year. A recovery rate shall be established for each facility during the annual budget process.

***Recreation Coordinating function (as outlined in Appendix I):***

- a) Program fees
- b) Recovery rate categories for programs
- c) List of direct program costs
- d) Annual administration fee
- e) Percentage split for Term Instructors operating as companies

***Oceanside Place and Ravensong Aquatic Centre functions:***

- a) facility admission fees and rental rates (as outlined in Appendices II and III)
  - b) review rates from similar facilities in the mid Island region
2. The Manager of Recreation and Parks and function Supervisors may, from time-to-time, establish one-time only fees or make a short-term relaxation of program or rental fees.

## Appendix I

1. Recovery rate categories for Recreation Coordinating function shall be presented as follows:
  - a) Pre-School Programs up to 5 years
  - b) Children's Programs 5-12 years
  - c) Youth Programs 11-18 years
  - d) Adult Programs 19 years plus
  - e) Summer Camps
  - f) Family Programs
  - g) Volunteer and Leader Development
  - h) Community Co-operative
  
2. Direct program costs shall include the following:
  - a) employment of Term Instructor(s), program coordinators and leaders including preparation time
  - b) program equipment, supplies and materials
  - c) facility rental
  - d) transportation and/or mileage (as per the RDN vehicle mileage rate)
  - e) administration fee (includes RDN administration fee, photocopying, promotion)
  
3. Program staff may use the following three methods to establish program fees:
  - a) Where the program is operated solely by the recreation and Parks Department, the Programmers will calculate fees based upon a percentage recovery of direct program costs as outlined in Section 2.
  - b) When a company hired as a Term Instructor by the Department operates the program and program registrations are not expected to exceed \$5,000 in the calendar year, the Programmer may negotiate a revenue-sharing arrangement based on a percentage ratio guideline of revenue generated. All direct program costs will be borne by the Company as part of their revenue share.
  - c) When the program is operated by a business, hired as a Term Instructor by the Department and the program registrations are expected to exceed \$5,000 in the calendar year, the Programmer will either obtain a minimum of three quotations or tender a proposal for the program to obtain the best package available for the Department and the community.

**Note:** As the Regional District will recover all direct program costs through the method of costing a program as outlined in (b) and (c) above, the Programmer and Company will be free to develop program fees through the quotation/tender process that are in keeping with both the Commission's service objectives and the Company's business and cost recovery objectives.

## Appendix II

### Oceanside Place – Facility Rates

(All rates will include GST – single admission rates will be rounded to the nearest \$.05)

Admissions	Passes (Book of 10)	Admissions:	Passes (Book of 10):
Family	x 9	Family with Skates	x 9
Child (14 years and under)	x 9	Parent and Tot	x 9
Youth (15-18 years)	x 9	Skate Rentals (Children)	x 9
Adult (19-54 years)	x 9	Skate Rentals (Youth/Adult/Senior)	x 9
Senior (55 years +)	x 9	Skate Rentals (School District 69)	
		Skate Sharpening	x 9

Rentals – HM/VK Ice Sheets:	Winter Season:	Shoulder Season:	Tournaments:	Dry Floor:
Minor Prime				
Minor Non-Prime			No Rate	
Adult Prime				
Adult Non-Prime			No Rate	
Senior Prime				
Senior Non-Prime			No Rate	
Hockey Skating School				
D69 Schools Prime				
D69 Schools Non-Prime				
Commercial Events Prime				
Commercial Events Non-Prime				

Rentals – Leisure Sheet and Other Amenities		
The Pond:	Multipurpose Room:	Meeting Room:
Ice In Prime	Full Room	
Ice In Non-Prime	Half Room	
Ice In with Full Sheet	Commercial Full Room	
Ice Out Prime	Commercial Half Room	
Ice Out Non-Prime	Full Room with Ice/Floor	
Ice Out with Full Sheet	Half Room with Ice/Floor	

**Appendix III**

**Ravensong Aquatic Centre – Facility Rates**

(All rates will include GST - single admission rates will be rounded to the nearest \$.05  
 - a surcharge of 20% will apply to all non-residents)

<b>Admissions:</b>	<b>Passes (Book of 10):</b>	<b>3-Month Pass:</b>	<b>6-Month Pass:</b>
Family	x 9		
Child (14 years and under)	x 9		
Youth 15-18 years)	x 9		
Adult (19-54 years)	x 9		
Senior (55 years +)	x 9		
Aquafit – Adult	x 9		
Aquafit - Senior	x 9		

<b>Rentals:</b>	<b>Main Pool:</b>	<b>Whirlpool/Leisure:</b>	<b>Per Lane:</b>	<b>Whole Pool:</b>
Children's Groups (incl. Schools)				
Youth Groups				
Adult Groups				
Swim Clubs -- Children				
Swim Clubs – Youth				
Swim Clubs -- Adult				
Commercial Groups				
Birthday Parties				
Additional Guards				
Private Lessons				