



## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Thursday, July 14, 2022

Held Electronically

and Transmitted via the SCRD Boardroom,  
1975 Field Road, Sechelt, B.C.

### AGENDA

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**CALL TO ORDER**      9:30 a.m.

#### AGENDA

1. Adoption of Agenda

#### PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS

#### REPORTS

- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| 2. Water Supply Update<br><i>General Manager, Infrastructure Services</i><br><b>Regional Water Service (Voting – A, B, D, E, F and Sechelt)</b>                         | VERBAL               |
| 3. Church Road Well Field Project Construction – Update Three<br><i>Manager, Capital Projects</i><br><b>Regional Water Service (Voting – A, B, D, E, F and Sechelt)</b> | Annex A<br>Pages 1-3 |
| 4. Major Appliances Recycling Roundtable Program<br><i>General Manager, Infrastructure Services</i><br><b>Regional Solid Waste (Voting – All Directors)</b>             | Annex B<br>pp. 4-6   |
| 5. Textile Recycling<br><i>Interim Manager, Solid Waste Services</i><br><b>Regional Solid Waste (Voting – All Directors)</b>  | Annex C<br>pp. 7-9   |

#### COMMUNICATIONS

- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| 6. <u>Ruth Simons, President, Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative Society, dated June 19, 2022</u><br>Regarding Howe Sound Community Forum 2022 and beyond | Annex D<br>pp. 10-25 |
| 7. <u>The Sunshine Coast Farmers Institute Board, dated June 27, 2022</u><br>Regarding feedback on Water Rates and Regulations<br>Bylaw No 422                | Annex E<br>pp. 26-29 |

**NEW BUSINESS****IN CAMERA**

That the public be excluded from attendance at the meeting in accordance with Section 90 (1) (k) of the *Community Charter* “negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a municipal service that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality if they were held in public.”

**ADJOURNMENT**

## SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT STAFF REPORT

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**TO:** Committee of the Whole – July 14, 2022

**AUTHOR:** Stephen Misiurak, Manager, Capital Projects

**SUBJECT:** CHURCH ROAD WELL FIELD PROJECT CONSTRUCTION – UPDATE THREE

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### RECOMMENDATION

**THAT the report titled Church Road Well Field Project Construction - Update Three be received for information.**

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### BACKGROUND

On January 13, 2022, the Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) formally awarded the Church Road Well Field Project construction contract to Maycon Construction Ltd. (Maycon), in the amount up to \$7,585,265 excluding taxes, as well as consulting contracts for the construction management and project administration services, and archeological monitoring services for this project.

The purpose of this report is to provide the Board with a status update of the construction activities for this project. This is the third such status update following the previous report provided to the Committee of the Whole on May 12, 2022.

### DISCUSSION

#### *Status update*

Since March, all archeological permits have been issued to the SCRD and the contractor is adhering to the permit requirements of routine archeological monitoring.

The contractor has completed the following work activities since the last progress update:

- June 8 - Drilling and completion of the downstream monitoring well on Church Road.
- June 24 – Contractor completed the installation of the water transmission main from Fisher Avenue to the Reed Road pump station and the parallel distribution watermain along Reed Road between North Road and the Reed Road pump station.
- June 27 - July 1 – Contractor filled, flushed and pressure tested the new transmission and distribution mains on Reed Road between Fisher Road and Reed Road pump station.
- June 24 – The Water Treatment Plant (WTP) foundation work was completed and work began on the building framing. Work is expected to continue through the end of July on the completion of the building enclosure.
- June through early July – BC Hydro installed the replacement primary power poles on Central and Fisher Avenues to serve the new WTP pumps and motors.
- July 11 – Work began on Elphinstone Avenue on the installation of the three new water mains.

- July 5 - 7 – Asphalt paving was completed on Reed Road between Fisher Avenue and Reed Road pump station.

#### *Financial Implications*

The project is currently still tracking to be completed within approved budget.

#### *Timeline for next steps*

Other scheduled work, subject to change, is as follows:

- July through end of August – Completion of the WTP building, including installation of pumps, motors, etc.
- Mid July through mid-August – Completion of the three watermain on Elphinstone Avenue.
- Late August - Final paving of Elphinstone Avenue and Church Road.
- Continued work on the WTP site civil work through late August.
- Mid to late September – Installation of the permanent on-site stand by generator.

Due to global supply chain issues, the computerized controller of the pumps and motors is currently in fabrication and is not expected to be delivered to the warehouse for factory testing until mid-November. Therefore, pump start up and commissioning of the water system including the WTP is projected to occur in December 2022. Staff have been diligently working with the design team and the contractor to investigate options available to accelerate the factory delivery of this piece of instrumentation, and the factory testing, in order to speed up the commissioning of the water system. The implementation of interim options are still being explored.

The next project status update report will be provided at the September 8, 2022, Committee of the Whole meeting.

#### *Communications Strategy*

In early February 2022, a project update notice was mailed out to approximately 470 properties in the immediate project area. On March 24, staff set up a public information booth on Elphinstone Avenue to provide residents an opportunity for in-person questions about the project. An additional project public meeting is scheduled for July 13, 2022 at the Eric Cardinal Hall. Continuing updates are provided weekly to the community on the scheduled key construction activities in the week ahead. Communication with the broader public has occurred through the SCRD “Let’s Talk Water” web page, including a Question and Answer Forum and the SCRD Facebook page.

#### **STRATEGIC PLAN AND RELATED POLICIES**

The Groundwater Investigation Project supports the SCRD Board’s 2019-2023 Strategic Plan to plan for and ensure year-round water availability now and in the future.

#### **CONCLUSION**

This report provides the Committee with a summary progress update of the completed and anticipated Church Road Well Field project construction activities.

Reviewed by:			
Manager		Finance	
GM	X - R. Rosenboom	Legislative	
CAO	X - D. McKinley	Other	

## SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT STAFF REPORT

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**TO:** Committee of the Whole – July 14, 2022

**AUTHOR:** Remko Rosenboom, General Manager, Infrastructure Services

**SUBJECT:** MAJOR APPLIANCES RECYCLING ROUNDTABLE PROGRAM

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### RECOMMENDATION(S)

**THAT the report titled Major Appliances Recycling Roundtable Program be received for information;**

**AND THAT the SCRD pursue a partnership with the Major Appliance Recycling Roundtable (MARR) Program for the Sechelt Landfill and Pender Harbour Transfer Station to become MARR Program collection sites;**

**AND THAT the delegated authorities be authorized to execute the required agreements with the Major Appliance Recycling Roundtable;**

**AND THAT the required Financial Plan amendments be provided as part of the 2023 Budget process for the newly implemented MARR program;**

**AND THAT Sanitary Landfill Site Bylaw No. 405 be amended to include a definition of the eligible appliances under this program and to define them as a separate recyclable material;**

**AND FURTHER THAT Schedule B of Sanitary Landfill Site Bylaw No.405 be amended to set the tipping fee for MARR appliances to \$0.**

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### BACKGROUND

Major Appliance Recycling Roundtable (MARR) is a Stewardship Program responsible for large residential appliance recycling in British Columbia. The program is regulated by the British Columbia (BC) Recycling Regulation made under the *Environmental Management Act*. MARR's stewardship plan was approved by the BC Ministry of Environment on June 29, 2012, and remains the only approved stewardship plan for major appliances in the province.

For a variety of reasons, the Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) has not joined this program yet. However, with the new public drop-off area now completed, the SCRD is now in a position to partner with the MARR Program to become a collection site which would allow residents to drop off their large appliances for free at the Sechelt Landfill and the Pender Harbour Transfer Station. The Gibsons Recycling Depot is the other location that is enrolled in the MARR program.

The purpose of this report is to seek Board direction on pursuing a partnership with the MARR Program to become a collection site for large household appliance recycling at the Sechelt Landfill and Pender Harbour Transfer Station.

## **DISCUSSION**

### *Options and Analysis*

The SCRD regulates materials received at the Sechelt Landfill and Pender Harbour Transfer Station (the Sites) via Sanitary Landfill Site Bylaw No. 405. Under Bylaw No. 405 scrap metal, white goods and appliances containing freon are designated as recyclable materials requiring separation.

Schedule B of Bylaw No. 405 sets out fees for materials delivered to the Sites. Scrap metal and white goods currently have a tipping fee of \$150 per tonne and a per unit price of \$30 for appliances with freon.

The MARR Program is funded by administrative program fees applied to the sale and supply of new major household appliances in BC. These fees are used to provide compensation to collection sites with a per-unit fee for all appliances collected. Additional funding is also provided for units containing refrigerants, such as freon, to fund responsible management of environmentally hazardous substances.

Eligible appliances under this program includes fridges, stoves, freezers, washing machines, dryers, air conditioning units, water coolers, dish washers, range hoods and dehumidifiers. These appliances are currently accepted as scrap metal, white goods or appliances with freon for recycling at the Sechelt Landfill and the Pender Harbour Transfer Station.

Through this program household appliances could be dropped off for free at the Sechelt Landfill and Pender Harbour Transfer Station. This benefits the community as a whole through cost savings. Amending Bylaw No. 405 to add MARR appliances as a recyclable material, with a tipping fee of \$0, is recommended. Staff expect that the elimination of tipping fees would result in an increase in the number of appliances diverted thru SCRD facilities. A reduction of illegal dumping of such appliances is also to be expected.

### *Organizational and Intergovernmental Implications*

The program will require some changes operationally that staff are confident can be implemented with current resources within the next several months.

### *Financial Implications*

The recycling of appliances is part of the broader metal recycling program and is funded from tipping fees as well as recoveries from metal recycling. If the SCRD joins the MARR program, the program would fund the hauling and processing of these appliances through a collector compensation model which is currently being paid through the metal recycling contract.

As the MARR program is designed as a full cost-recovery program, the financial implications of joining this program are expected to be cost neutral to the service. However, a Financial Plan amendment will be required to reduce the projected revenue from tipping fees and increase the revenue from external recoveries with the same value. How it impacts the expenses is also unknown. The value of this change is dependent on the start date of the MARR-program and will be based on the amounts of appliances received and associated revenue over the last three years. There is the potential that the reduction in tipping fees will increase the number of

appliances disposed of thru the SCRD-facilities and this could increase the amount of revenue received from our metal recycler.

Therefore, staff will report back to the Board as part of the 2023 Budget deliberations with the proposed Financial Plan amendments after further analysis after program implementation.

*Timeline for next steps*

Based on Board direction, staff will advance the discussions with MARR, execute the contract to join the program and prepare an implementation plan. The implementation plan will include items such as a timeline and communications plan. Program implementation is anticipated by Q4 2022.

*Communications Strategy*

Based on Board direction, a communications plan will be developed and would include posts to the SCRD website, social media accounts and print advertising.

**STRATEGIC PLAN AND RELATED POLICIES**

The MARR program aligns with the Board's Strategy of Achieving Sustainable Solid Waste Management and supports the current Solid Waste Management Plan's target of 65%-69% diversion by enhancing metal recycling.

**CONCLUSION**

Pursuing a partnership with the MARR Program to become a collection site for large household appliance recycling at the Sechelt Landfill and Pender Harbour Transfer Station will benefit the community as a whole. Residents will be provided cost savings while potentially an increase in metal diversion rates and a reduction of illegal dumping of these appliances can be achieved. Besides the execution of a contract to join the MARR program, amending Bylaw No. 405 to set a tipping fee of \$0 for appliances eligible under the MARR program is recommended.

Staff will report back as part of the 2023 Budget deliberations with the required Financial Plan amendments of joining the MARR program.

Reviewed by:			
Manager		Finance	X-T. Perreault
GM		Legislative	X-S. Reid
CAO	X-D. McKinley	Risk Management	X-V. Cropp



**SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT STAFF REPORT**

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**TO:** Committee of the Whole – July 14, 2022

**AUTHOR:** Rebecca Porte, Interim Manager, Solid Waste Services

**SUBJECT:** TEXTILE RECYCLING

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**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**THAT the report titled Textile Recycling be received for information;**

**AND THAT pending the confirmation of the implementation of a textile recycling program on the Sunshine Coast by Diabetes Canada, textile recycling be added to the services offered at Sechelt Landfill and Pender Harbour Transfer Station;**

**AND THAT Schedule B of Sanitary Landfill Site Bylaw No. 405 be amended to include textiles as a recyclable material and set the tipping fee for textiles to \$0;**

**AND FURTHER THAT the delegated authorities be authorized to execute the required agreements with Diabetes Canada.**

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**BACKGROUND**

The Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) was recently approached by Diabetes Canada as they are exploring the potential to expand their national textile diversion program to include the Sunshine Coast. Through this program, Diabetes Canada would provide and service textile drop off bins at several locations throughout the Sunshine Coast. Although the participation of SCRD is not required for the program to launch, SCRD participation could include providing two of the drop-off locations and amending Sanitary Landfill Site Bylaw No. 405 to include a tipping fee for textiles.

As of June 30, 2022, the Return-It Textiles program has been discontinued which has reduced the number of textile recycling drop-off locations on the Sunshine Coast.

The purpose of this report is to seek Board direction on adding textile recycling to services provided at the Sechelt Landfill and Pender Harbour Transfer Station, and the amendment of Bylaw No. 405.

**DISCUSSION**

The 2014 SCRD Waste Composition Study showed that 6% of waste ending up in the landfill was textiles. The 2022 waste composition study results will not be available until Q4 of 2022, however, initial outcomes from the spring audit suggest that textiles continue to be a noticeable contributor to the Sunshine Coast waste stream. While there are some opportunities to donate textiles on the Sunshine Coast, they are limited, and have become more limited since the COVID pandemic. As well, the Return-It program is no longer accepting textiles on the Sunshine Coast.

The overall 2021 waste diversion rate for SCRD was 57%, below the Solid Waste Management Plan target of 65-69%. A robust textile recycling program on the Sunshine Coast would provide one more opportunity to keep usable items out of the landfill, and could improve the diversion rate.

Diabetes Canada contacted the SCRD to determine if the SCRD would be willing to provide sites for their drop boxes. Two locations, the Sechelt Landfill and Pender Harbour Transfer Station (PHTS) can accommodate this, and staff have determined that this would fit within the current operations. The bins would be serviced by a local contractor hired by Diabetes Canada who would empty the bins on a regular schedule, and as needed. Textiles would be stored locally, and then transported to the Lower Mainland for processing. Of the textiles received in the Diabetes Canada donations bins nationally, 95% are able to be repurposed and kept out of the landfill.

Diabetes Canada is currently in the planning stage to determine if all the required components to expand collection to the Sunshine Coast is possible. This includes a total of 5-10 collection points, acquiring adequate storage, and hiring a contractor. If Diabetes Canada is successful, Bylaw No. 405 could be amended to include it as a recyclable item with a tipping fee of \$0.

### *Analysis*

If Diabetes Canada is successful in coordinating the expansion of their textile recycling program to include the Sunshine Coast, there will be multiple drop off bin locations for textiles. Staff recommend to start providing this service at two SCRD sites including the Sechelt Landfill and PHTS. Amending Bylaw No. 405 to add textiles as recyclable materials with a tipping fee of \$0 is therefore recommended.

### *Organization and Intergovernmental Implications*

Amending Bylaw No. 405 to add textiles with a tipping fee of \$0 is recommended.

There would be minimal SCRD resources required for the implementation and operations of this program. The main involvement would include outreach advising the public of the new service and regulations, and coordination of the bylaw amendment. As Diabetes Canada will manage the entire program support by staff would be minimal.

### *Financial Implications*

There are no notable financial implications outside of initial staff time to coordinate with Diabetes Canada, outreach time, and bylaw amendment.

### *Timeline for next steps*

Diabetes Canada is actively working to secure locations for bins, find a storage unit and then hire a contractor to service the bins. If they are successful in coordinating the components, the estimated launch timing would be late Q3 2022. The SCRD would develop a communications plan to meet that timeline, ensuring that the public is aware of these new services and regulations.

### *Communications Strategy*

If this program is launched, a SCRD communication plan would include updates through a news release, social media, and the SCRD website to advise residents of this diversion opportunity and new regulation.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN AND RELATED POLICIES**

This initiative can be seen as supporting the Strategy of Achieving Sustainable Solid Waste Management from the Boards 2019-2023 Strategic Plan, and supports the current Solid Waste Management Plan's target of 65-69% diversion by including textile recycling.

## CONCLUSION

Adding textile recycling as a service offered at the Sechelt Landfill and PHTS would enhance the diversion options for the textile waste stream and will help to keep these reusable items from the landfill. Amending Bylaw No. 405 to include textiles as a recyclable material and set a tipping fee of \$0 is recommended. This amendment would be pending implementation of a Diabetes Canada textile diversion program for the Sunshine Coast. The operational and financial implications of the implementation of these new services can be absorbed within the current budget and operations.

Reviewed by:			
Manager		Finance	X - T. Perreault
GM	X - R. Rosenboom	Legislative	X - S. Reid
CAO	X – D. McKinley	Other	



June 19, 2022

To: Directors Donna McMahon and Mark Hiltz, Areas E and F, and the Board of the Sunshine Coast Regional District

**Re: Howe Sound Community Forum 2022 and beyond**

Dear Directors Hiltz and McMahon,

This letter is a request for:

1. A letter of support for the updated Howe Sound Community Forum Principles for Cooperation
2. Commitment to host a Howe Sound Community Forum in the future.
3. Support via a Memorandum of Understanding with the Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative Society.

**Background**

The Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) was a founding member of the Howe Sound Community Forum in 2000 and participated in the development of the original Principles for Cooperation. Successive SCRD Directors have participated in the bi-annual meetings and sub-committees of the Howe Sound Community Forum. Area F hosted a forum in 2017.

The SCRD was an active supporter of the Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound UNESCO Biosphere Region designation. Having achieved this designation in 2021, the next phase is sustaining the UNESCO designation for future generations. The Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative Society (HSBRIS), is responsible for the management of the Biosphere Region. Sustaining the organization requires continued support from the authorities, collaboration and reliance on various sources of funding.

At the October 2021 forum on Bowen Island and the April 2022 forum at Furry Creek, Mayor Karen Elliott, District of Squamish, invited forum members to consider long-term support of the HSBRIS to ensure the UNESCO designation is maintained, and the Howe Sound Community Forum continues. We responded to the feedback received from the Forum members; this letter is the next step.

*Continued...*

### **Maintaining the Howe Sound Community Forum 2022 and Beyond**

The attached Principles for Cooperation have been updated to reflect the societal and logistical changes since the last update in 2014. We are asking for the Sunshine Coast Regional District to acknowledge and support these changes. Please see the proposed letter of support attached.

Forum members take turns hosting, and you hosted on October 13, 2017. The SCRD would not be due to host until 2024 provided all the other Forum member communities meet their commitment to take a turn. We request the SCRD budget \$4,500 or \$1,125 over the next four years. This would include the costs of hosting, attendance and participation for elected Directors and staff to attend bi-annual forums and sub-committees convened by HSBRI.

### **Sustaining the Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound UNESCO Designation**

One of the recommendations discussed amongst forum members was for each of the Howe Sound Community Forum member local governments to enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with HSBRI. Please see the draft attached. This MOU outlines the role of HSBRI, common objectives and ways the community can support HSBRI – see appendix A.

As the pressures of growth, development and the impacts of climate change affect our region, we hope the Areas E and F Directors of the SCRD will continue to participate in the Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound community of communities and take pride in the prestigious UNESCO recognition that is reflective of this beautiful part of the world where humanity and nature thrive.

Sincerely,

Ruth Simons  
President, Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative Society  
[howesoundbri@gmail.com](mailto:howesoundbri@gmail.com)

PO Box 465  
Lions Bay, B.C.  
V0N 2E0

Enclosures:

1. Principles for Cooperation with tracked changes
2. Principles for Cooperation clean final copy
3. Sample letter of support to HSBRI
4. Draft Memorandum of Understanding
5. Appendix A



## Principles for Cooperation Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound Community Forum

To provide an overview of the need, purpose and structure for cooperative efforts by interested local governments and First Nations operating on the unceded territory of the Coast Salish Peoples in the Átl'ka7tsem Howe Sound region.

### 1. Statement of Purpose

To provide a forum for elected representatives of local governments, Regional Districts and First Nations as well as federal and provincial elected members to have discussions focused on how to maintain and enhance the economic, environmental, cultural and social well-being of the Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound (the Region) for the benefit of present and future generations.

### 2. Rationale (The Need)

The Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound Community Forum (the Forum) will enhance collective action among local governments, regional districts and First Nations by:

- Providing a common forum for dialogue
- Sharing knowledge and information to avoid duplication of effort and to enhance any single organization's capacity for action
- Promoting the use of transparent processes that encourage awareness and involvement.
- Providing a forum for gaining a better understanding of and from First Nations peoples in the Region.

### 3. Scope

The Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound region includes the marine waters and all the lands that drain into these waters, the surrounding airshed on the east side of the Salish Sea (Strait of Georgia) between Point Atkinson and Gower Point, and interested adjacent communities.

### 4. Common Vision

The Forum envisions that communities within the Region can be healthy, productive and sustainable by:

- understanding the use and occupancy of the region by the Squamish Nation/Skw̓xwú7mesh Úxwumixw, who have occupied and managed Átl'ka7tsem for many thousands of years;
- building appreciation for the spiritual and cultural values of the region;
- understanding, promoting and implementing best practices, including traditional practices;
- promoting compact and complete communities;
- encouraging safe and livable communities;

- encouraging an integrated transportation system;
- preserving a healthy and natural environment;
- nurturing cultural heritage
- supporting sustainable use of resources;
- fostering a vibrant and dynamic economy;
- raising awareness about land use; and
- ensuring the public is informed and encouraged to be active.

## 5. Shared Values

The Forum will involve the collective efforts of First Nations and a wide variety of governments, non-government organizations, the private sector, educational institutions and individuals to pursue the following values and objectives. The Forum shares the following values and objectives.

### Value...Recognition of Indigenous Rights and Titles

Objective – Respect and support of Aboriginal Rights and Title, traditional knowledge and sacred places....

### Value...Spirit of Sharing

Objective - The many interests and organizations in the Region can strengthen the effectiveness of programs by openly sharing information and knowledge.

### Value... Action Orientation

Objective - The Forum will encourage groups to take actions that produce positive observable results and public benefit to communities.

### Value...Efforts towards Sustainability

Objective – The Forum members recognize the need to effectively manage and maintain a balanced relationship between community development and the protection of unique biophysical, First Nations sacred places and cultural qualities, and the unique biophysical and environmental qualities of the Region.

### Value.. The need for Cooperation and observing protocol

Objective -Governments, First Nations and organizations will be encouraged to work together.

### Value...Stewardship

Objective - Voluntary action of individuals and organizations as a powerful and effective tool for achieving positive results. ~~is an objective of the Forum.~~

### Value... Transcending Jurisdictions

Objective - The Forum will encourage communities to work together for the greater good because jurisdictional territorial lines on a map mean nothing in terms of sustainability.

### Value...Focus and Transparency

Objective - Forum member programs will encourage clear objectives and use accountable processes that are available to Forum members and the public.

### Value... Respect for Diversity

Objective - It is recognized that while every member of the **Forum** may have a different focus or interest, they are encouraged to acknowledge a shared interest in the sustainability of the **Region**.

## 6. Structure (The Members)

A hosting community from the membership **will work cooperatively with the Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative Society (HSBRIS) as the convening organization.** ~~They act as the focal point and be responsible to coordinate meetings and agenda material.~~

The hosting community will rotate among **the Forum** members, and meetings will be held bi-annually, or more frequently, as requested by any member or as predicated by local issues.

Task forces or subforums may be established to focus on specific projects.

Charter members of the **Átl'ka7tsem/**Howe Sound Community Forum include elected representatives of the **following** communities at:

Bowen Island Municipality	Squamish Nation/ <b>Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw</b>
Gambier Island Local Trust Committee	Sunshine Coast Regional District
Town of Gibsons	Village of Lions Bay
Metro Vancouver Regional District	District of West Vancouver
District of Squamish	Resort Municipality of Whistler
Squamish-Lillooet Regional District	<del>Village of Pemberton</del>
<b>West Vancouver/Sunshine Coast/Sea to Sky Member of Parliament</b>	
<b>Powell River/Sunshine Coast Member of the Legislative Assembly</b>	
<b>West Vancouver/Sea to Sky Member of the Legislative Assembly</b>	

## 6. Other Participants

Neighbouring communities, First Nations, organizations and members of society who have a shared interest in the region and support these Principles for Cooperation are welcome to participate in the forums as observers and/or presenters.

## 7. Activities (Action and Results)

The Forum members are not expected to make decisions as a body and will achieve its objectives through activities that build on the talents, knowledge and actions of its individual members by:

- Facilitating information exchange about local or regional projects.
- Supporting members by sharing information, research and best practices.
- Apprise the public of topical and important matters that affect us all.
- Identifying areas of public **policy that require attention and projects that deserve attention or support of Forum members.** ~~policy that require attention and projects that deserve the support of the Forum members.~~
- Assessing progress through the benchmark, monitoring, and program assessments; and



- Promoting transparency and accessibility by the Forum members.

## 8. Logistics (Organizing and Facilitating)

The role of the Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative Society as the convening organization is to:

- Maintain and make publicly available a historical record of the past forums
- Work with future hosts and appointed host representative(s) to plan and organize future forums
- Maintain contact records of invitees and appointed representatives of the members
- Recommend topics and themes of relevant interest to the Forum members.
- Develop and maintain respectful interactions and communications
- Plan, organize and coordinate the logistics and technology for successful engagement and attendance
- Initiate, manage and maintain invitations, attendance and respond to requests
- M/C the event to ensure members and observers are participating respectfully
- Manage the recording of the event and items for follow-up.
- Negotiate costs, manage budget, bookkeeping, and prompt payments.

The role of the host community is to:

- Budget and fund the costs of hosting a forum which includes costs of:
  - Venue for up to 70 people
  - A/V equipment needs
  - Catering
  - HSBRIS convening costs
  - Negotiable extras such as transportation, post tour, honorariums
- Appoint representatives to be the point of contact for planning and support before, during and after the event.

Therefore, **unless explicitly expressed**, all the Howe Sound Community Forum **members** commit to respecting the Principles for Cooperation.

It is understood the Principles for Cooperation may be amended from time to time and will be circulated to members and participants in advance of each Forum.

May 2022



## Principles for Cooperation Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound Community Forum

To provide an overview of the need, purpose and structure for cooperative efforts by interested local governments and First Nations operating on the unceded territory of the Coast Salish Peoples in the Átl'ka7tsem Howe Sound region.

### 1. Statement of Purpose

To provide a forum for elected representatives of local governments, Regional Districts and First Nations as well as federal and provincial elected members to have discussions focused on how to maintain and enhance the economic, environmental, cultural and social well-being of the Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound (the Region) for the benefit of present and future generations.

### 2. Rationale (The Need)

The Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound Community Forum (the Forum) will enhance collective action among local governments, regional districts and First Nations by:

- Providing a common forum for dialogue
- Sharing knowledge and information to avoid duplication of effort and to enhance any single organization's capacity for action
- Promoting the use of transparent processes that encourage awareness and involvement.
- Providing a forum for gaining a better understanding of and from First Nations peoples in the Region.

### 3. Scope

The Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound region includes the marine waters and all the lands that drain into these waters, the surrounding airshed on the east side of the Salish Sea (Strait of Georgia) between Point Atkinson and Gower Point and interested adjacent communities.

### 4. Common Vision

The Forum envisions that communities within the Region can be healthy, productive, and sustainable by:

- understanding the use and occupancy of the region by the Squamish Nation/Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw, who have occupied and managed Átl'ka7tsem for many thousands of years;
- building appreciation for the spiritual and cultural values of the region;
- understanding, promoting and implementing best practices, including traditional practices;
- promoting compact and complete communities;
- encouraging safe and livable communities;
- encouraging an integrated transportation system;

- preserving a healthy and natural environment;
- nurturing cultural heritage;
- supporting sustainable use of resources;
- fostering a vibrant and dynamic economy;
- raising awareness about land use; and
- ensuring the public is informed and encouraged to be active.

## 5. Shared Values

The Forum will involve the collective efforts of First Nations and a wide variety of governments, non-government organizations, the private sector, educational institutions and individuals to pursue the following values and objectives. The Forum shares the following values and objectives.

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Objective – Respect and support of Aboriginal Rights and Title, traditional knowledge and sacred places....

### Value...Spirit of Sharing

Objective - The many interests and organizations in the Region can strengthen the effectiveness of programs by openly sharing information and knowledge.

### Value... Action Orientation

Objective - The Forum will encourage groups to take actions that produce positive observable results and public benefit to communities.

### Value...Efforts towards Sustainability

Objective – The Forum members recognize the need to effectively manage and maintain a balanced relationship between community development and the protection of First Nations sacred places and cultural qualities, and the unique biophysical and environmental qualities of the Region.

### Value.. The need for Cooperation and observing protocol

Objective -Governments, First Nations and organizations will be encouraged to work together.

### Value...Stewardship

Objective - Voluntary action of individuals and organizations as a powerful and effective tool for achieving positive results.

### Value... Transcending Jurisdictions

Objective - The Forum will encourage communities to work together for the greater good because jurisdictional lines on a map mean nothing in terms of sustainability.

### Value...Focus and Transparency

Objective - Forum member programs will encourage clear objectives and use accountable processes that are available to Forum members and the public.

### Value... Respect for Diversity

Objective - It is recognized that while every member of the Forum may have a different focus or interest, they are encouraged to acknowledge a shared interest in the sustainability of the Region.

## 6. Structure (The Members)

A hosting community from the membership will work cooperatively with the Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative Society (HSBRIS) as the convening organization.

The hosting community will rotate among the Forum members, and meetings will be held bi-annually, or more frequently, as requested by any member or as predicated by local issues.

Task forces or subforums may be established to focus on specific projects.

Charter members of the Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound Community Forum include elected representatives of the following communities:

Bowen Island Municipality	Squamish Nation/Skw̓xwú7mesh Úxwumixw
Gambier Island Local Trust Committee	Sunshine Coast Regional District
Town of Gibsons	Village of Lions Bay
Metro Vancouver Regional District	District of West Vancouver
District of Squamish	Resort Municipality of Whistler
Squamish-Lillooet Regional District	
West Vancouver/Sunshine Coast/Sea to Sky Member of Parliament	
Powell River/Sunshine Coast Member of the Legislative Assembly	
West Vancouver/Sea to Sky Member of the Legislative Assembly	

## 6. Other Participants

Neighbouring communities, First Nations, organizations and members of society who have a shared interest in the region and support these Principles for Cooperation are welcome to participate in the forums as observers and/or presenters.

## 7. Activities (Action and Results)

The Forum members are not expected to make decisions as a body and will achieve its objectives through activities that build on the talents, knowledge, and actions of its individual members by:

- Facilitating information exchange about local or regional projects.
- Supporting members by sharing information, research, and best practices.
- Apprise the public of topical and important matters that affect us all.
- Identifying areas of public policy that require attention and projects that deserve the attention or support of the Forum members.
- Assessing progress through the benchmark, monitoring, and program assessments; and
- Promoting transparency and accessibility by the Forum members.

## 8. Logistics (Convening, organizing and facilitating)

The role of the Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative Society as the convening organization is to:

- Maintain and make publicly available a historical record of the past forums
- Work with future hosts and appointed host representative(s) to plan and organize future forums
- Maintain contact records of invitees and appointed representatives of the members
- Recommend topics and themes of relevant interest to the Forum members.
- Develop and maintain respectful interactions and communications
- Plan, organize and coordinate the logistics and technology for successful engagement and attendance
- Initiate, manage and maintain invitations, attendance and respond to requests
- M/C the event to ensure members and observers are participating respectfully
- Manage the recording of the event and items for follow-up.
- Negotiate costs, manage budget, bookkeeping, and prompt payments.

The role of the host community is to:

- Budget and fund the costs of hosting a forum which includes costs of:
  - Venue for up to 70 people
  - A/V equipment needs
  - Catering
  - HSBRIIS convening costs
  - Negotiable extras such as transportation, post tour, honorariums
  - Appoint representatives to be the point of contact for planning and support before, during and after the event.

**Therefore, unless explicitly expressed, all the Howe Sound Community Forum members commit to respecting the Principles for Cooperation.**

It is understood the Principles for Cooperation may be amended from time to time and will be circulated to members and participants in advance of each Forum.

May 2022

Local Government letterhead

**Sample of communication requested.**

Date

Ruth Simons,  
President,  
Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative Society  
PO Box 465  
Lions Bay, B.C.  
V0N 2E0  
[howesoundbri@gmail.com](mailto:howesoundbri@gmail.com)

Re: Revisions to the Howe Sound Community Forum Principles for Cooperation May 2022 and Memorandum of Understanding

The Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) was a founding member of the Howe Sound Community Forum since it was formed in 2000, and participated in the development of the original Principles for Cooperation. The SCRD has actively participated in the bi-annual meetings and sub-committees of the Howe Sound Community Forum and hosted a forum in 2017. We look forward to hosting again in 2024.

We acknowledge the May 2022 changes to the wording of the Principles for Cooperation that reflect the societal and logistical changes over the past twenty years.

The SCRD also acknowledges the role and services provided by the Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative Society through the attached Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Yours truly,

Chair



Logo here

## ***Memorandum of Understanding (DRAFT)***

### *Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative and The Sunshine Coast Regional District Collaborating for a Sustainable Future*

- UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- AHSUBR Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound UNESCO Biosphere Region
- HSBRIIS Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative Society
- AHSCF Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound Community Forum
- POC Principles of Cooperation
- SCRD Sunshine Coast Regional District

#### **1) The Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound UNESCO Biosphere Region (AHSUBR)**

This is the unceded territory of the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation People). The In-SHUCK-ch, Katzie, Líl'wat, xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), shíshálh (Sechelt), Stó:lō, Səlílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, and First Nations within the St'at'imc Chiefs' Council (includes Lillooet Tribal Council Bands), and the Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group have claims in the region.

- a) The AHSUBR boundary follows the partial watershed from the height of land to the bottom of the ocean and includes lands and communities within three regional districts of Metro Vancouver (West Vancouver, Bowen Island, Lions Bay and Area A), Sunshine Coast (Gibsons and Areas E, Elphinstone and F West Howe Sound) and Squamish-Lillooet (Furry Creek, Britannia Beach, Squamish and Brackendale).
- b) Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound Region is 218,723 hectares, 84% terrestrial and 16% marine. 6% is Rural Regional District and Reserve Lands, 5% of the terrestrial is privately owned or "urban" and 89% of the terrestrial area is under the management and shared stewardship of the Province of BC and First Nations.

#### **2) Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative Society (HSBRIIS)**

Is a B.C. registered non-profit Society and is responsible for the management of the AHSUBR through the Nchu'ú7mut/Unity Plan; and for advancing the objectives of UNESCO Biosphere Regions (biodiversity conservation, sustainable development, reconciliation, model regions for learning, research and monitoring). UNESCO Biosphere Region organizations provide logistic support.

HSBRIIS' priorities are to:

- a) Advance Sustainable Development. Key partnerships and adequate supports, data and tools are in place for planning gaps across the region to be filled and the region's sustainability targets are defined and embedded with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the planning and decision-making processes.
- b) Advance Biodiversity Conservation. Key partnerships work to further education, monitoring, and research, fill knowledge gaps, and increase stewardship and connection to place.

- c) Advance Reconciliation, Equity & Inclusion. The AHSUBR roundtable and forums for convening in an ethical space are well established to further the relationships, dialogue and understanding in the context of all AHSUBR nations and communities.

HSBRIS provides logistic support through programs aimed at strengthening collaboration for a sustainable future. Programs include communications, convening and facilitating, advising and coordinating projects.

HSBRIS provides support to the Howe Sound Community Forum and other subcommittees of the forum by planning, coordinating and reporting. HSBRIS maintains a trusted role.

### **3) Sunshine Coast Regional District**

The **Sunshine Coast Regional District** is located on the southern mainland coast. It borders the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District to the east, and, across Howe Sound, the Metro Vancouver District to the south.

Sunshine Coast Regional District has a total population of 32,170 with a land area of 3,767.43 km<sup>2</sup>. The population of Electoral Areas E Elphinstone and Area F West Howe Sound are approximately 6,290 and are within the AHSUBR boundary.

The Sunshine Coast Regional District's Strategic Plan focus areas of Working Together and Advocacy align with the overarching objectives of the AHSUBR. The focus of the SCRD to promote Community Resilience and enhance Climate Change Adaptation are also shared values at the core of its organizations.

### **4) The Howe Sound Community Forum and the Principles of Cooperation**

The purpose is to provide a forum for local governments, Regional Districts and First Nations discussions to maintain and enhance the economic, environmental, cultural and social well-being of the Howe Sound for the benefit of present and future generations. The Principles of Cooperation is a document that all members, local governments, regional districts and First Nations, signed in 2002. The Principles of Cooperation state the need, scope, common vision, shared values and structure of the forums.

### **5) Relevant Background**

The signing of the original Howe Sound Community Forum's Principles for Cooperation took place in 2002. As a signatory to the Principles for Cooperation, the SCRD has been an active member of the Forum and its committees. Electoral Area F hosted a forum in 2017.

Embedded in The Sunshine Coast Regional District's Strategic Plan (September, 2021) are the regional strategies of:

- Pursue a regional planning framework for local governments and First Nations to address regional growth with consideration to economic, social and environmental values and impacts.
- The SCRD goals towards enhancing Advocacy include working with senior levels of government and First Nations to improve the protection of watersheds and to enhance marine protection and habitat restoration;
- The SCRD objective to develop a Climate Change Adaptation strategy will inherently encompass initiatives to address biodiversity loss due to wildfires, sea level rise and droughts;



- The strategic objective to Increase Intergovernmental Collaboration is a shared objective and fundamental cornerstone of the Howe Sound Community Forum that will Identify and implement opportunities for joint initiatives, collaboration and information sharing between local governments.

The convening of the Howe Sound Community Forum has been conducted by Ruth Simons since 2014. Ruth Simons is now the Executive Director of the Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative Society.

The Sunshine Coast Regional District has indicated support for the UNESCO Biosphere Region nomination through resolutions recognizing alignment with the Principles for Cooperation (January 2017). The November 2019 SCRD letter of support was included in the nomination package.

**6) It is understood:**

The Sunshine Coast Regional District will support and cooperate with the HSBRS as it manages the AHSUBR and the Howe Sound Community forums and sub-committees. In doing so the Sunshine Coast Regional District will act as an Ambassador for the UNESCO Biosphere Region by (details in Appendix A):

- Assigning a staff liaison position as the main point of contact with HSBRS.
- Continue as active and engaged participants in the Howe Sound Community Forum.
- Budget for and host a forum on a rotating schedule.
- Support the Principles of Cooperation and the Nchu'ú7mut/Unity Plan through the contribution of information.
- Consider the priority goals and objectives of the Nchu'ú7mut/Unity Plan in policy and planning decisions.
- Promote and reference with pride the UNESCO Biosphere Region.
- Offer and facilitate funding resources for HSBRS for educational opportunities and beneficial projects through grants and/or in-kind support.

It is also understood this memorandum of understanding will be reviewed every new Board term and may be amended at any time by mutual agreement.

On behalf of the Sunshine Coast  
Regional District

On behalf of Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative  
Society

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Ruth Simons, President \_\_\_\_\_

Date Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## **Memorandum of Understanding**

### **Appendix A**

**1. Assigning a staff liaison position as the main point of contact for Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound-related projects and planning.**

The role involves knowledge transfer by attending meetings on behalf of the municipality, responding to requests from HSBRS that fall within the spirit of the MOU and communicating back to staff and the Council. The person appointed would have and share knowledge, contribute perspectives, and be knowledgeable of the history and the principles of the UNESCO Biosphere Region and Nchu'ú7mut/Unity Plan. They would attend meetings and maintain relationships and good communications while respecting the policy direction of the Municipality.

**2. Continue as active and engaged participants in the Howe Sound Community Forum.**

Representatives of the Council and staff will attend the bi-annual forums and sub-committees and will report back to Council. Updates to the Principles for Cooperation as agreed upon by the Forum members will continue to be supported.

**3. Budget for and host a forum in the future.**

The Local Government may offer to host a forum at any time, but at a minimum follow a rotating schedule of the members.

**4. Support the Principles of Cooperation and the Nchu'ú7mut/Unity Plan through the contribution of information.**

Consider the priority goals and objectives of the Nchu'ú7mut/Unity Plan in policy and planning decisions

**5. Promote and reference with pride the UNESCO Biosphere Region designation.**

Following the branding guidelines of UNESCO and HSBRIS, the municipality will work with HSBRIS communications and reference the UNESCO designation on its website, through signage and other communications.

**6. Consider the priority goals and objectives of the Nchu'ú7mut/Unity Plan in policy and planning decisions**

The Municipality acknowledges the UNESCO Biosphere Region requires a management plan that considers the land and marine use of the Biosphere Region. The management plan, referred to as Nchu'ú7mut/Unity Plan serves as a guiding document for planning.

**7. Support the long-term sustainability of HSBRIS through opportunities to facilitate funding resources for secretariate services, educational opportunities and beneficial projects through grants and/or in-kind support.**

These opportunities may be in the form of:

- Additional fees on commercial filming permits
- Create a nature tax, or service area tax
- Grants in-aid
- An annual contribution for secretariate services
- Funding a portion of project costs or matching funds with other government or funding contributions
- In-kind time of staff resources
- Waiving costs of meeting rooms

**From:** Raquel Kolof <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2022 11:40 AM

**To:** Bell, Donna (Weiler, Patrick - MP) <[donna.bell.842@parl.gc.ca](mailto:donna.bell.842@parl.gc.ca)>; Donna McMahon <[Donna.McMahon@scrd.ca](mailto:Donna.McMahon@scrd.ca)>; Simons.MLA, Nicholas <[nicholas.simons.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:nicholas.simons.mla@leg.bc.ca)>; Board Chair <[board@scrd.ca](mailto:board@scrd.ca)>

**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Subject:** Feedback on water rates and regulation bylaw

**Dear SCRD Board of Directors,**

Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed changes to the Water Rates and Regulations Bylaw No 422.

The changes we propose are aligned with the [SCRD Ag Plan](#), the [SCRD's We Envision: A Regional Sustainability Plan](#), both of which refer to the need to support a local, viable and resilient food system.

The SCFI respectfully makes the following requests:

**1. Permanently exempt commercial food farmers\* from Stage 4 water restrictions.**

Water restrictions based on indoor vs outdoor water use are unfair to farmers who are required to grow food outdoors. These restrictions are not in the best interest of our communities' need for food security, nor our ecosystem's long-term health.

**2. Give commercial food farmers\* a 50% reduction on commercial water rates, including the quarterly flat rate and the additional per-cubic-meter rate charged after the flat rate threshold has been reached.**

Currently, the yearly commercial water bill for farmers with 2-4 acres in production can range from \$4000-\$6000. Given the exponential cost increases for farm insurance, seed, fertilizer and other input costs, and given the low profit margin for food crops, additional bills could mean the end for some farm operations. It is also likely to prevent new farmers from starting up on the Sunshine Coast.

Based on our research from local farms, the quarterly commercial water bills incurred by irrigating 4 acres of crops would be:

- a. \$468.73 for the winter quarter

Typical winter use - 100 m3 per month (100 m3 x 3 months = 300 m3) billed \$131.73 per quarter plus \$337 (\$1.56 x 216 m3) = \$468.73

b. \$936.73 for the spring or fall quarter

Typical spring/fall use - 200 m3 per month (600 m3) billed \$131.73 per quarter plus \$805 ( $\$1.56 \times 516 \text{ m3}$ ) = \$936.73

c. \$2847.73 for the summer quarter

Typical summer use - 400 m3 per month (1200 m3) billed \$131.73 per quarter plus \$2716 ( $\$1.56 \times 1116 \text{ m3}$ ) = \$2847.73

### **3. Give commercial food farmers an increased threshold for the flat commercial water rate to 600 m3 per quarter.**

Most crops require one inch of water per week, which is equal to 27,000 gallons or 102 m3 per acre per week. This translates to the average crop farmer requiring 408 m3 per month per acre or 1224 m3 per quarter per acre.

Many of our local farms have 2-4 acres in production but are only using 200-400 m3 for their entire farm operation each month during May to September, the months requiring the most irrigation. Our local farmers are effective at water conservation and are using far less cubic meters per acre than is standard practice.

**We request these exemptions and reductions in water rates for the following reasons;**

**1. Food is an essential human need and as such local food production needs to be protected.** At a time when [supply chain issues](#) and [food scarcity](#) looms large and our traditional food suppliers in BC and abroad are experiencing unprecedented wildfires and drought, the duty to protect and invest in local farmers who have dedicated their livelihoods to growing large volumes of food all year long is even more urgent.

**2. Farm water use is part of the hydrologic cycle and recharges the aquifer:** Soil-based farms are an important part of the green water cycle. Unlike indoor water use that returns grey/black water to sewer systems, the outdoor watering of crops stewards the water cycle. Soil filters rainwater and protects the quality of our groundwater. [Droughts are mitigated by improving soil health](#) with diverse crops and livestock that add organic matter to bring soil to life. Living soil infiltrates rain at a higher rate and can store up to 10 times its weight in water reducing flooding and washouts.

[In 2021 Sunshine Coast forests saw 1,127,544 m3 of timbers](#) removed from our forests drastically affecting our watersheds, and our land's water absorbing capacity. Local farms can help mitigate the negative impact of the loss of forest cover and increasing urban development.

**3. Soil-based farming improves our ecosystem and reverses climate change:** Healthy soil supports ecosystems that are more resilient to the impacts of drought, flood, or fire. [Soil regulates the earth's climate](#) and stores more carbon than all of the world's forests combined (3-5 tonnes per hectare per year). [Living soil controls erosion, provides habitat for billions of organisms that fix nitrogen and decompose organic matter.](#) 70-80% of insects require the top 2 inches of soil for life. Farmers' crops, orchards and pastures sequester carbon while supporting wildlife and pollinators, which are essential to our food supply. We are fortunate that our local

farmers are experts in [sustainable food production](#) and practice [many aspects of regenerative agriculture](#), such as no till, cover crops, biodiversity and incorporating well managed livestock.

**4. Local farmers are already at a breaking point** with unprecedented drought, heat domes, atmospheric rivers, labour shortages, skyrocketing input costs, and low profit margins. Losing crops and income in the most productive months while adding thousands of dollars annually in commercial water rates will push our farmers over the edge of viability and harm our local food security.

**5. Commercial farmers need equitable access to our water infrastructure.** Equality issues arise when other ALR land owners and heavy water users, such as industrial marijuana grow ops and breweries have no water restrictions simply because they are indoor operations. Farmers would be happy to use untreated water but until untreated water systems are in place, the current water infrastructure is all we have. Residential gardener's water needs can be met with current rainwater harvesting rebate programs and other water conservation practices but local commercial farmers are not entitled to these rebates, and commercial farm water needs in one week can exceed what these tanks collect in one year.

Farmers, whose profit margins are far lower than most commercial businesses, pay the same property taxes and commercial water rates, and therefore have the right to equitable access to our municipal services. Farmers are one of the few commercial operations to be denied water during stage 4 restrictions. Drilled wells currently cost over \$80,000. This additional cost is simply not feasible for most farmers, especially those leasing land.

**Our proposal will have a minimal impact on the water supply and a significant, positive impact on the region's struggling local farms.**

[Only 8% of ALR land is farmed.](#) [The SCRD's own Regional Sustainability Plan](#) states "The actual land used for commercial food production may be as low as 12 hectares total," and the SCRD has determined that local farms only use 1-3% of our annual water supply.

Meanwhile, [BC reported fewer farms in last year's census of agriculture, with losses outpacing the national average.](#) The province was home to 15,481 farms last year, a decline of 10% since the last census in 2016. This follows an 11% decline in 2016 versus 2011, and contrasts with a 2% increase in neighbouring Alberta.

Simply by enacting stage 2 and stage 3 water restrictions earlier, and, in particular, by banning water use on lawns, enough water could be saved to compensate for the 1-3% used by farmers in stage 4.

**We ask our local government to take steps to protect the hard-working sector that feeds us while providing ecological services.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,

The Sunshine Coast Farmers Institute Board  
Raquel Kolof - President - Hough Heritage Farm  
Mel Sylvestre - Vice President - Grounded Acres Organic Farm  
Rose Kiewitz - Director - Henry Reed Organics

Erin Dutton - Director - Erin Dutton Design Landscaping  
Dan White - Director - Farmer Dan's Family Farm  
Robin Friesen - Director - Gibsons Farm  
Alisha M'Lot - Director - Harvest Heart Farm  
Mary Degan - Director - Hearty Homestead  
Mary-Catharine Anderson - Secretary - Blaks Botanicals  
Robin Dutcher - Treasurer - Soames Hill Farm

**\*The SCFI Board defines a commercial farm as:**

1. A property that grows **food** for commercial sale and;
2. A property that has earned farm classification status as per [Section 23 of the Assessment Act and B.C. Reg. 411/95](#), the Classification of Land as a Farm Regulation and/or;
3. Leased land that grows **food** for commercial sale but where the land owner has chosen to not apply for farm classification the farmer leasing the land can still prove commercial sale of food crops with receipts. This would be inclusive of farmers who lease several parcels that do not qualify for farm classification or who are new to farming and have not yet earned farm classification status.