



REGIONAL
DISTRICT
OF NANAIMO

RESPONSE TO PROVINCIAL ENGAGEMENT ON BC WATERSHED SECURITY STRATEGY AND FUND

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board endorse the attached Response to Provincial Engagement on BC Watershed Security Strategy and Fund, for submission to the Province on behalf of the Regional District of Nanaimo during the feedback period closing March 18, 2022.

BACKGROUND

On January 25, 2022, the Government of BC launched a public engagement period on their proposed Watershed Security Strategy and Fund. A discussion paper posted online¹ presents the key opportunities and outcomes that the Province is contemplating related to protecting watersheds and creating a healthier and more resilient future for all living things. The Province states that the Watershed Security Strategy and Fund will “build on efforts inside and outside of government to ensure our water and watersheds are respected and valued for all they provide”. The engagement period is open through to March 18, 2022, for citizens and organizations to provide their feedback via an online questionnaire or written submission.

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) has been active in advancing local watershed sustainability initiatives through the regional Drinking Water and Watershed Protection (DWWP) program, a parcel tax funded service delivering education, science, and policy support related to water since 2009. As a regional government leader in this space, it is important for the RDN to provide constructive feedback to this Provincial call for input to ensure that local perspectives and experiences can help shape the forthcoming fund and strategy.

Attachment 1 presents commentary on many of the outcomes proposed by the discussion paper, based on the input of experienced RDN staff, elected officials and technical advisors. It offers a concise reflection of professional and community perspectives on the subject matter and suggests solutions and priorities that would best serve our region, emphasizing key actions not to be overlooked in the Provincial advancement of watershed security efforts.

If endorsed by the Board, this written submission will be sent to the Province on behalf of the RDN prior to the engagement period closing date. If Directors and others would like to provide additional individual feedback, there is a questionnaire (feedback form) available online² that is another means to relay input to the Province on this initiative before the March 18, 2022, deadline.

¹ <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/watershedsecurity/process/>

² <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/watershedsecurity/>

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications of this report.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

Environmental Stewardship - Protect and enhance the natural environment, including land, water, and air quality for future generations.

People and Partnerships - Seek opportunities to partner with the provincial and federal governments, other government agencies, and community stakeholder groups in order to advance strategic plan goals and objectives.

REVIEWED BY:

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ATTACHMENT:

1. RDN Written Submission in Response to the BC Watershed Security Strategy and Fund Discussion Paper