DISTRICT OF METCHOSIN
AGENDA

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY SELECT COMMITTEE MEETING

October 24, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers
Metchosin Municipal Hall

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1. Agenda, Additions, Approval

2. Presentations

3. Public Participation

4. Adoption of Minutes
a) Environmental Advisory Select Committee, September 26, 2023 1

5. Receipt of Minutes

Council & Standing Committee Minutes
https://www.metchosin.ca/council/council-meetings/agendas-minutes
a) Council Meeting: August 14, 2023
b) Environment and Natural Areas Committee: September 11, 2023
c) Community Planning Committee: September 11, 2023
d) Public Works and Protective Services Committee: September 11, 2023

Advisory Committee Minutes
https://www.metchosin.ca/council/advisory-committees
a) Agricultural Advisory Select Committee: September 6, 2023
b) Buffer Land Working Group: September 12, 2023
c) Buffer Land Working Group, Community Input Session #2 Notes: October 2, 2023
d) Parks & Trails Advisory Select Committee: September 19, 2023

6. Business Arising from the Minutes
a) Buffer Land Stormwater Management
b) Metchosin Climate Action Plan – Draft Working Papers on Evaluation Framework
- Criteria for Evaluating GHG Reductions..... 5
- Action Plan 7

c) New Meeting Date and Committee Terms of Reference 9

7. Reports

8. New Business
a) Bilston Watershed Habitat Protection Association, Summary of Recommendations regarding Centre Mountain storm Water Management Plan..... 11
b) BC Government 30% Protected Land by 2030 Commitment
- BC Government Commits to Doubling the Protection of Lands in BC to 30% by 2030.... 13
- Protecting 30 by 2030..... 19

9. Correspondence
a) Minister George Heyman, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, Human Health Risk Report, Trans Mountain, Condition 38..... 25

10. Adjournment and next meeting

District of Metchosin

Minutes
Environmental Advisory Select Committee Meeting
Tuesday, September 26, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.
Council Chamber
Metchosin Municipal Hall

Present: Garry Fletcher (Chair), Councillor Steve Gray, Andy MacKinnon, Bill Cave, Merrilee Hoen (recorder), Anna Hall, Ric Perron

Regrets: Erin Van de Water

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

1. Agenda, Additions and Approval

Moved and Seconded by Andy and Rick that the Committee approve the agenda with the addition of a discussion of changing our monthly meeting schedule.

Carried

2. Presentations

a) Alison LeDuc, President, Bilston Watershed Habitat Protection Association (BWHPA), gave a presentation about Stormwater Management which was also included in the agenda package. Brent Donaldson pointed out that stormwater management should be planned on a district level not just development by development. Activities in other districts such as Langford affect Metchosin. Andy suggested that the BWHPA produces a document listing the 6-8 items that they would like to see in the Centre Mountain Residential Stormwater Management Plan to guide MEASC's eventual response to that document. Alison has agreed to do that.

Action item: Steve will get the 2019 Land Cover GIS layers for Bilston watershed.

3. Public Participation: None

4. Adoption of Minutes

Moved and Seconded by Andy and Bill that the Committee approve the minutes of the Environmental Advisory Select Committee meeting held on June 27, 2023.

Carried

5. Review of Minutes

a) Council and Standing Committee Minutes

Moved and Seconded by Andy and Bill that the Committee receive the Council and Standing Committee Minutes for information.

C**arried**

b) Advisory Committee Minutes

Moved and Seconded by Andy and Bill that the Committee receive the Advisory Committee Minutes for information.

C**arried**

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) Metchosin Climate Plan

- Steve and Merrilee to begin work on evaluation criteria.
- The Agricultural Plan RFP has been awarded. MEASC would have like to see more about addressing climate change.
- Adoption of the zero carbon step code will be considered at the upcoming meeting of the Environmental and Natural Areas Committee
- It was thought that the Canadian Federation of Municipalities (CFM) might have climate change funding that is only available to its members. No CFM climate grants have been identified.
- Our application to the CRD for grants to install two electric vehicle chargers has failed because the CRD did not get the grant it expected. Metchosin Administration will pursue a contract with a provider.
- Metchosin will continue to promote the CRD's Home Energy Navigator Program to assist citizens in obtaining grants for energy saving home upgrades.
- MEASC previously recommended to Council that they not allow the natural gas extensions to any new development. Council has asked the Administration to investigate the implications of this.

b) Federal Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Fund

- We had hoped that this fund would fund some of our invasive species control measures (e.g., knotweed) but have found that it is only for the invasive green crab which is not a significant problem here.

c) Buffer Land Stormwater Management Planning

- MEASC does not feel qualified to comment on the engineering data presented in the Centre Mountain Residential Stormwater Management Plan.
- There will be updated versions of the plan issued for some time. MEASC would like each new version of the document to be clearly identified.
- MEASC is aware that they cannot release any preliminary versions of the document and that there are significant penalties for doing so.
- MEASC expects that final approval from Metchosin will be required this document and also its detailed implementation plan.
- MEASC members expressed concerns about the implication that water flows may be switched from one creek to another and would like information about this if that is in the plan. There was also concern expressed that guarantees about water quality standards were not as firm as we would like.
- In light of the extreme weather we have been experiencing and the many unknowns surrounding climate change, would it not be advisable to plan for even worse scenario than a 200 year event?
- With the massive removal of trees and soil disturbance which has taken place this year, what can Metchosin expect in terms of storm water runoff this year? And for the protection of the riparian areas?

Moved and Seconded by Andy and Anna that MEASC recommends to Council that they should hire someone with expertise in hydrology and engineering to review the Centre Mountain Residential Stormwater Management Plan

Carried

d) Sue Big Oil Campaign

- Council requested more information about what costs might be incurred if the law suit failed. There will be a presentation by Andrew Gage of West Coast Environmental Law to the Environmental and Natural Areas Committee on October 16, 2023. They will explain more about the implications of joining this campaign.

e) Proposed Rezoning Application, Beckingham Road.

- The Developer has now applied for an 18 lot subdivision instead of the earlier 24 lot proposal. This means that it will be handled by staff under existing policies and bylaws. It was noted that a positive outcome of this issue has been significant public engagement and input.

7. New Business

a) 2023 Union of BC Municipalities Convention

- All of Metchosin's resolutions concerning the protection of old growth forests, enhancing/protecting biodiversity in local communities, and reducing anchorages outside of the Port of Vancouver were passed at the UBCM and the issues will now be taken over by them for further action.

b) Bilston Creek Watershed Management Planning

- In Metchosin's Strategic plan, environmental stewardship is identified as a goal and there is a specific reference to "preserve and protect our shoreline, watersheds and aquifers". MEASC would like to develop a Bilston Creek integrated water shed management plan. It has been suggested that a version of the plan which was developed some years ago be re-examined and revised.

Action Item: Merrilee, Andy and Steve will meet to discuss next steps.

c) Riparian Area Regulation

– Steve brought the committee's attention to the document "Riparian Areas Regulation for Local Governments". He recommended the District enforce more strict riparian area regulations to protect these sensitive ecosystems throughout Metchosin and pointed out that the Metchosin Foundation's Bilston Conservation Corridor Project is an example of work in this area.

Action Item: Andy and Steve will review the provincial regulations and bring forward potential approaches for consideration at the next MEASC meeting.

d) New meeting date

Due to a conflict, a committee member cannot attend on most of our meeting dates. We will investigate whether any alternative times are available

8. Reports: none

9. Correspondence:

All correspondence was received by MEASC.

10. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date

Moved and Seconded by Bill and Merrilee that the Committee adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Carried

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 24, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

DRAFT Working Papers for Evaluation Framework - Metchosin's Climate Change Plan (19Oct23)								
(The two sheets/tabs need to be combined and sorted - this is still an early draft)								
					Action			
Criteria for Evaluating GHG Reductions (to be evaluated 2028)					Plan	Time Line	Source of measurable data	
CRD GHG Inventory by Sector data (all the available reports from 2020 to 2028)					All		New report available - Fall 2023	
Number of new trees and hedgerows planted					1.2	Short	Unknown	
Criteria for Evaluating Community Resilience (to be evaluated 2028)								
Number of people reporting adoption of water conservation measures					5.1	Med	Unknown	
Number of applications made by District for resilience funding					2.2	Ong	District annual report	
Number of applications made by community groups for resilience funding					5.1, 2.2	Ong	Community grp annual reports	
Emergency Preparedness activities by group					5.1, 2	Short	Community group annual reports	
Fire Smart program indices					5.1, 2	Short	Fire Smart annual reports	
Extreme Heat and other grant-funded Programs					2.1	Short	Fire Dept annual reports	
Base Line Data - Data to gather for 2023 and again in 2028								
Bilston CME pre/post construction run-off - water quality, water volume					2.3	Med	Under development	
Reports of landslides and flooding					2.1, 2.3	Med	Unknown	
Counts of wildfires in Metchosin					2.1	Short	Fire Dept annual report	
Wildfire smoke severity readings e.g. no. of days where it is severe					2.1	Short	Environment Canada	
Erosion on shoreline					2,1	Short	Unknown	
Damage related to unusual high tides					2.1	Short	Unknown	
Agricultural Committee data (statistics or anecdotal)								
related to crop ripening, pests, diseases, availability of water, availability of animal feed							AASC?	
Rainwater Management Bylaw infractions					2.3	Med	Bylaw annual report	
Volunteer hours removing invasive plants and planting native plants.					1.1	Sht	Annual reports MISC, Devonian and PTASC	

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING GHG REDUCTIONS - PAGE 2 OF 2

					Action			
Criteria for Evaluating GHG Reductions (to be evaluated 2028)					Plan	Time Line	Source of measurable data	
Community Support of the Climate Action Plan								
Encourage a community group to be formed to:					5.1	Med		
Gather base line data in preparation for the 2028 review.								
Engage with other community groups and individuals to plan climate-related initiatives.								
	These could include:							
	Repair cafes						MACCA	
	Recycling days for items not picked up in Blue Bins such as soft plastic							
	Promote battery recycling						District, CRD Hartland	
	Facilitation of ride sharing							
	Provide assistance for seniors to apply for rebate programs						SIRC	
	Lobby BC Transit to improve service							
	Organize educational events and materials							
	Update the District website regularly on climate plan progress						MEASC	
Lobby other local govts for greater recognition of sequestered carbon in CRD GHG Inv								

ACTION PLAN PAGE 1 of 2

Action Item	**Land use, Agriculture and Waste**	Timeline	Status
1.1 a)	Investigate and report to Council on development of land-use conservation and enhancement targets.	Medium	
1.1 b)	Engage with partners to solicit external funding for new habitat protection and restoration projects	Medium	
1.1 c)	Leverage land acquisition funding to buy and convert additional District lands into designated protected areas	Long	
1.2 a)	Develop Agricultural Plan - climate resilience, enhanced biodiversity and low carbon agriculture	Short	AASC underway
	Additional opportunities:		
	Lobby senior and regional governments for improved land protection and ecological preservation.		2023 UBCM Resolution
	Investigate opportunities to encourage wetland and riparian restoration.		MEASC reviewing
	Support partner efforts to enhance agricultural land preservation.		
	Continue support for invasive species management.		Contractors, volunteers
	Investigate the development of a municipal compost yard.		
	Investigate the development of a waste gasification facility for the District.		
	Investigate the development of recycling services.		
	Push for recognition of carbon sequestration in CRD emissions inventory assessments.		CRD
	Risk Reduction from the Impacts of Climate Change		
2.1 a)	Complete extreme heat assessment and mapping	Short	Fire Dept
2.1 b)	Develop a shoreline protection plan to address sea level rise.	Medium	MEASC
2.1 c)	Investigate and apply for funding to conduct a localized climate hazard and vulnerability assessment.	Medium	Fire Dept
2.2 a)	Integrate climate change into District asset management planning and policy development.	Ongoing	District admin
2.3 a)	Investigate and report to Council on opportunities to enhance groundwater protection and conservation	Medium	
	(e.g., via increase rainwater harvesting, efficient irrigation, xeriscaping).		District subdivision bylaw
	Additional opportunities:		
	Investigate opportunities to use natural asset management tools and approaches to manage climate impacts.		
	Investigate building, plumbing code changes to permit outdoor greywater reuse.		
	Adoption of ZCSC Level 4 for all new builds		Council Nov 20

ACTION PLAN PAGE 2 of 2

Action Item	**Land use, Agriculture and Waste**	Timeline	Status
	Buildings		
3.1a)	Continue to share information and promote participation in the CRD Navigator	Ongoing	SIRC
3.2 a)	Encourage residents to undertake home energy audits	Medium	
3.2 b)	Encourage residents to undertake *Firesmart* Home Ignition Zone assessments.	Medium	Fire Dept
3.2 c)	Develop a 'sustainability checklist' to for retrofits and re-developments	Medium	
3.2 d)	Investigate cost/benefit of solar panels onproposed new firehall.	Short	Include in feasibility study
	Additional opportunities:		
	Advocate at CRD for enhanced recognition of carbon sequestration in greenhouse gas inventory.		District reps
	Consider accelerated STEP code adoption at District level.		ZCSC to Council Nov 20
	Promote voluntary adoption of Steps 4 and 5 of the BC Energy step code for private development.		
	Investigate local implementation of property assessed clean energy (PACE) program.		
	Transportation		
4.1 a)	Investigate and report to Council on options to develop an active transportation plan for the District.	Short	
4.2 a)	Establish partnerships to repair and maintain existing public EV charging stations.	Short	CRD
	Additional opportunities:		
	Continue to lobby BC transit to further improve transit scheduling and bike-to-transit connectivity and advocate		
	for BC Transit to accelerate implementation of on-demand transit service for Metchosin.		
	Identify and apply for external funds to purchase and install additional public EV charging stations.		CRD
	Explore opportunities to support local businesses to install electric charging infrastructure.		
	Require 220v EV charge connections - new builds + retrofits.		
	Community Engagement		
5.1 a)	Encourage a community-led climate change and sustainability lecture series.	Medium	
	Additional opportunities:		
	Engage with partners to identify and solicit external funding for new habitat protection and restoration projects		

SUBJECT:	**COUNCIL** **Terms of Reference** **Environmental Advisory Select Committee (MEASC)**	**SECTION:**	**C-100**
		POLICY:	**C-100.72**
		COUNCIL:	**May 16, 2005**
		AMENDS:	

PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE

MEASC's role is to consider environmental matters and to report its findings and opinions to Council.

MEMBERSHIP

When making appointments to committees, Council will strive to ensure a balance of knowledge, abilities and interests. For MEASC, preference will be given to applicants having familiarity in some facet of environmental knowledge, including but not limited to: terrestrial, marine or freshwater biology, botany, hydrology, forestry, environmental restoration, environmental law, geology.

PROCEDURES & ADMINISTRATION

This committee is bound by the terms of Advisory Select Committee Bylaw No. 493, and by the terms of the District of Metchosin Council Procedure Bylaw. Additional procedures are outlined below:

1. Regular meetings will take place on the evening of the fourth Tuesday of every month, unless otherwise agreed by a majority of the members. Notice of meeting date changes will be provided to municipal staff as far in advance as possible.
2. The role of Recording Secretary may be shared by members on a rotating basis.
3. The committee will conduct periodic internal performance reviews to consider scope of activities and ensure continued effectiveness of the committee. Any concerns will be reported to Council.

FUNCTIONS AND ROLES

The Committee

1. Provide expert environmental advice and make analytical capacity available to District of Metchosin Council and staff, as requested.
2. Comment and make recommendations on matters that are referred to MEASC by Council or staff.
3. Inform Council about general and specific environmental issues affecting the District.
4. Recommend to Council and staff procedures and processes to effectively promote and protect the District's environmental resources.
5. Maintain current knowledge of the Official Community Plan and other applicable or related bylaws, and make recommendations accordingly, when requested.
6. Develop appropriate tools to expedite assessments, enable effective retrospective project analysis, and monitor MEASC performance.
7. Identify emerging environmental trends or issues within the District, and bring these to Council's attention, through the minutes of the committee, in order to seek authorization for further investigation.
8. Coordinate, when required, with other select committees.

SUBJECT:	**COUNCIL** **Terms of Reference** **Environmental Advisory Select Committee (MEASC)**	**SECTION:**	**C-100**
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		AMENDS:	

The Chair

1. Arrange for access to the municipal office on meeting nights.
2. Ensure order at committee meetings.
3. Lead the committee in carrying out its Terms of Reference.
4. Attend standing committee or Council meetings when required to speak on behalf of the advisory select committee's recommendations.
5. When appropriate, delegate work to Committee members and/or establish subcommittees for specific tasks.
6. Liaison with staff
    a. Review agenda prior to the committee meeting and advise staff if additional information is required by the committee
    b. Track postponed issues to ensure that they are dealt with
    c. Clarify questions that may arise at the committee meetings
    d. Advise staff if a meeting is cancelled or rescheduled
    e. Advise staff of every meeting called
    f. Provide staff with copies of any additional agenda items.

Committee Members

1. Read the information in the agenda packages.
2. Attend meetings regularly.
3. Contact the Chair if there is material missing from the agenda, or more information is required.
4. Attend and participate in the discussions at advisory select committee meetings.
5. Participate in site inspections with the appropriate approvals.
6. Advise staff of any changes in contact information.

NOTE TO COMMITTEE

Council appreciates the valuable expertise and specialized input of its advisory committees. However, when committee recommendations are considered at the Council table, issues must often be considered in a wider context; Council, therefore, reserves the right to vary or not endorse recommendations from its advisory committees.

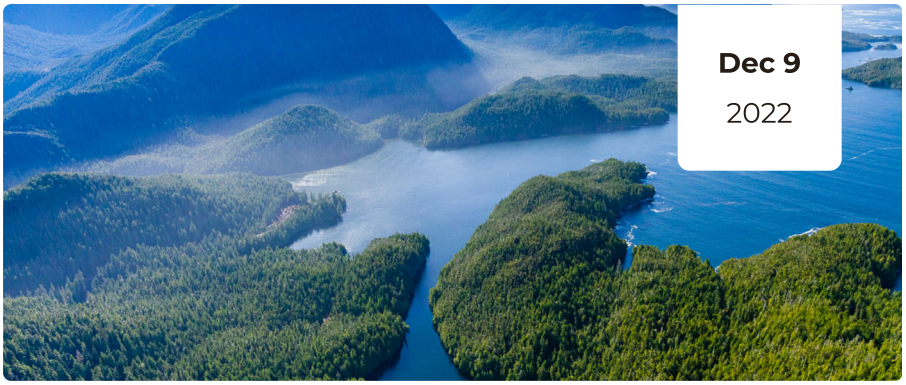
To: MEASC
From: Bilston Watershed Habitat Protection Association
Subject: Summary of recommendations regarding Centre Mountain SWMP

We appreciate your invitation to provide a summary of recommendations regarding rainwater management for the Centre Mountain residential development area.

1. Our most important recommendation is for MEASC to recommend that Council obtain a review of the Centre Mountain SWMP by an expert in rainwater management systems, low impact development stormwater management practices and urban stream ecology. Rainwater management has evolved considerably in order to reduce the adverse effects of stormwater while facilitating infiltration, pre-development overland flows and groundwater recharge at rates sufficient to maintain aquifers and summer stream flows; it is now recognized as a key component of effective municipal climate adaptation strategies.[1]
2. With any other development, the proponents would be required to set aside part of their land or purchase adjacent land to accommodate detention pond(s). In this case they do not have to do so because the detention pond(s) will be located on Metchosin Buffer Land. In view of this anomaly, it is entirely reasonable for the District of Metchosin to insist upon an integrated rainwater management plan built to the highest standards that will guarantee that water quality, groundwater recharge and both summer and winter flows are safely maintained.
3. We would like to underline the need for funding of long-term water flow and water quality monitoring programs, together with a performance bond, to ensure that promises made are promises kept.
4. District of Metchosin Rain Water Protection and Management Bylaw 467 provides good guidance. The April 27, 2023 version of the Centre Mountain SWMP states that District of Metchosin Bylaw 467 was used to establish design standards and provide the level of service targets for capture, rate reduction, volume reduction, and quality for the watershed (section 1.3 Supporting Documentation). We recommend that the Centre Mountain SWMP be carefully reviewed to ensure that it complies with the requirements of District of Metchosin Rain Water Protection and Management Bylaw 467.

[1] Federation of Canadian Municipalities, *Strengthening your community's approach to climate change with green infrastructure*

Media Release



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Media Release

BC Government Commits to Doubling the Protection of Lands in BC to 30% by 2030 and Creating a New Conservation Financing Mechanism to Help Establish IPCA's

For immediate release
December 9th, 2022

Financing Mechanism to Help Establish IPCA's.

Framework for increased protection has been laid, major funding now needed to make it succeed.

Victoria / Unceded Lekwungen Territories – The Ancient Forest Alliance commends the BC government for committing to protecting 30% of lands in the province by 2030, including through the creation of new Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs), which would double what is currently protected in legislated areas in BC. Nathan Cullen, Minister of Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship, has also been directed in his new mandate letter from Premier David Eby to "develop a new conservation financing mechanism to support protection of biodiverse areas." No announcements around funding commitments have yet been made.



"The commitment to double legislated protected areas in BC has the potential to be a major step towards protecting endangered old-growth forests, ecosystems, and species across British Columbia," stated Ancient Forest Alliance Campaigner & Photographer, TJ Watt. "The new premier should be commended for this. To ensure these promises can be made a reality, it's imperative that major conservation funding is secured through the much anticipated BC-Canada Nature Agreement. We have the framework, now we just need the funding to implement it."

This is also the first time the provincial government has publicly acknowledged the need for conservation financing linked to protecting the most biologically diverse areas and the creation of new IPCAs. In British Columbia, under successive court rulings, First Nations ultimately decide which areas within their unceded territories get protected or not. The provincial

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An aerial view over the Klaskish Inlet where the unprotected East Creek and Klaskish Rivers meet the Pacific Ocean in Quatsino territory on Vancouver Island, BC. The Brooks Peninsula Provincial Park is in the background.

government can provide enabling conditions for First Nations to protect old-growth forests by providing critical funding for land use planning capacity, stewardship jobs, and sustainable economic development linked to new protected areas. The province choosing the most biodiverse areas for candidate protected areas, should First Nations agree, is a vital step towards securing productive old-growth forests, where the greatest species richness tends to be.

“For years we have been pushing for the province to commit to conservation financing that links protecting endangered old-growth forests through Indigenous Protected Areas with First Nations’ sustainable economic development,” notes Watt. “Creating conservation economies that allow new, sustainable jobs and businesses to flourish while preserving imperiled ecosystems is a win-win for humans and nature. None of this happens for free, though. That is why the BC government now needs to accept and match the hundreds of millions of dollars that’s available from the federal government for expanding

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First Nations cultural tours, such as those pictured here in Clayoquot Sound, are just one example of sustainable business alternatives to old-growth logging.

The federal government has so far committed $3.3 billion over 5 years to expand terrestrial ($2.3 billion) and marine ($1 billion) protected areas, along with several billion dollars more for “natural climate solutions” that often overlap with nature protection initiatives. BC’s share of those funds is estimated to be between $200 to $400+ million, which also includes a dedicated $55.1 million Old Growth Nature Fund for the protection of the most at-risk old-growth stands, but only if the province matches this funding. When adding in potential funding from private donors, this could result in anywhere from $500M-$1B+ in total funding for conservation in BC.

“These latest commitments from Premier Eby appear to signal that the province is willing to move in the right direction. The Ancient Forest Alliance has long called for conservation financing to help establish new Indigenous-led protected areas that support sustainable enterprises, and for the government to adopt the federal protected areas targets at a bare minimum,” said Watt. “To make sure their actions truly make a difference on the ground, they must focus on

Doubling the protected areas in BC by scooping up vast areas not under threat while allowing the logging of thousand year old trees to continue will only fuel the rampant public cynicism that's resulted from broken political promises in the past. Ancient temperate forests in BC, and the communities and cultures that evolved amongst them for millennia, are counting on Eby to do the right thing."

For interviews please contact TJ Watt at info@ancientforestalliance.org [mailto:info@ancientforestalliance.org]



Ancient Forest Alliance Photographer & Campaigner, TJ Watt, admires the unprotected old-growth Sitka spruce trees in Mossome Grove near Port Renfrew in Pacheedaht territory on Vancouver Island, BC.

Background:

Conservation financing is an approach that was successfully used on BC's Central and North Coasts, where $120 million was committed by the provincial and federal governments and conservation groups to support First Nations business development and

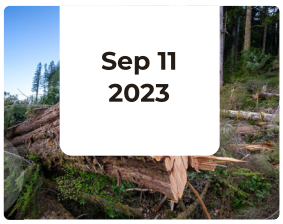
Great Bear Rainforest being reserved from logging.

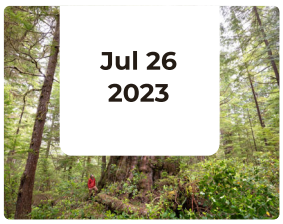
This funding helps to supplant the lost revenues and jobs from forgoing old-growth logging through the creation of alternatives such as eco-tourism, sustainable aquaculture, non-timber forest products, renewable energy, and even sustainable second-growth logging. It can also provide funds needed for First Nations' guardian and stewardship programs.

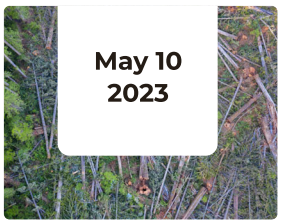
Old-growth forests are vital to support endangered species, First Nations cultures, the climate, clean water, wild salmon, and tourism. Under BC's current system of forestry, second-growth tree plantations are typically relogged every 50-60 years, never to become old-growth again.

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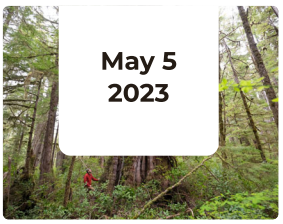




Photo: Adam Combs

Join the 30×30 movement

When given adequate protection to thrive, Nature supports healthy wildlife and resilient communities. It's the common ground that sustains us all.

Yet Nature is at a breaking point and we're seeing the effects of continued degradation throughout BC. From threatened Grizzly bear populations and dwindling caribou numbers to critically endangered northern spotted owls, biodiversity is declining faster than ever before.

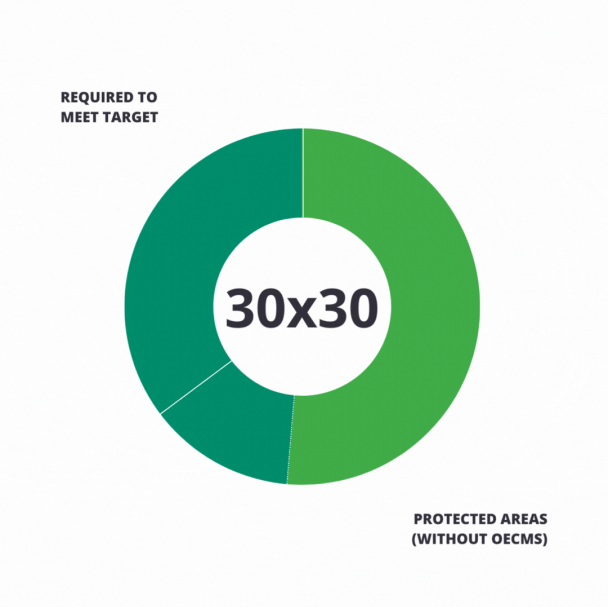
BC to protect 30% of lands by 2030

Good news! In partnership with Indigenous Nations and communities, the BC government has committed to protecting 30% of lands by 2030.

We've worked hard to advocate for this commitment, and now it's time to hold the government accountable to meeting these important targets.

How are we doing?

Protected areas cover **15.6%** of the land base in BC, meaning the province will need to nearly double current land protection to meet its 2030 target.



In addition, the BC government includes Other Effective Conservation Measures (OECMs). These are areas that weren't set aside to protect ecosystems and have often been wrongly included in the tally of total protected areas. A community watershed is a good example of this.

This false accounting adds an extra **4%** to reach **19.6%**. You can learn more about this from CPAWS-BC's 2021 report, An Honest Accounting.

> Learn more: Explore the unique and important landscapes that will help us

What's next?

Support Indigenous-Led Conservation

Research affirms that biodiversity thrives on lands and protected areas managed by Indigenous Peoples. As stewards of these natural environments since time immemorial, they hold intimate knowledge and understanding of the relationship between land, water, wildlife and people. Indigenous Nations across the province are already taking bold action to address biodiversity loss and conserve ecosystems through Indigenous governance and knowledge systems. New approaches to conservation are being imagined, stewardship initiatives are being launched, and Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs) are being declared.



Photo: Adam Combs

Did you know? Indigenous Nations can establish IPCAs under their inherent rights and laws, but provincial and federal governments lack the legal frameworks required to recognize them as protected areas.

Supporting Indigenous-led conservation presents an important opportunity for the BC government to increase land protection in a way that upholds Indigenous rights and advances provincial commitments to reconciliation. This includes:

- Co-developing protected areas with Indigenous Nations
- Establishing a legal framework to recognize IPCAs
- Providing continued resources to support Indigenous Guardian programs across BC

Apply Rigorous Standards to all Protected Areas

Not all protected areas in BC are equal. While 15.6% of the province's landbase is protected by robust designations like provincial parks and conservancies, the other 4.1% claimed as OECMs remains vulnerable to activities that directly harm biodiversity. Unlike protected areas and conservancies, OECMs can be established for objectives outside of conservation as long as management practices provide some level of Nature protection. OECMs must meet clear national and international criteria to be effective, ensuring Nature is adequately protected. This is where BC falls short.



Photo: Adam Combs

Did you know? Old Growth Management Areas (OGMAs) are one of three designations that BC claims as OECMs, and they cover nearly 1.5 million hectares of land. Many OGMAs don't actually contain old growth forests because they operate as rotating reserves, meaning they are harvested on a rolling 80-year cycle. While industrial activity may be limited to specific areas during certain times, logging, oil, gas and road-building is still permitted in OGMAs, allowing continued destruction of important wildlife habitats.

The BC government needs to scrub its protected area accounting and apply rigorous standards across the board. False reporting inflates BC's protected areas total and pulls potential away from other proposals and areas that will be more effective at safeguarding biodiversity. Although OECMs that meet the required standards can be valuable in some cases, Indigenous-led conservation and protected areas are the most effective tools to achieve 30% by 2030.

Prioritize Resilient Networks of Protected Lands

Biodiversity is being lost at a staggering rate due to continued habitat destruction. From industrial development to climate change, landscapes around us are constantly

changing, forcing animals to move and adapt in new ways. Wildlife needs large, connected landscapes in order to thrive.



Did you know? There are 55 Grizzly bear populations in BC and 60% of these are threatened with extinction. Grizzly bears rely on large tracts of wild habitats to forage for food throughout different seasons. As they feed and roam from rocky rivers to forest floors, rich nutrients are deposited back into the earth, supporting a much broader network of life.

Natural habitats are shrinking and increasingly fragmented by roads, extraction sites and natural disasters. This leaves wildlife isolated to smaller tracts of wilderness, reducing their access to food sources, breeding potential and safe places to seek refuge. As the keystone Grizzly bear demonstrates, when one species becomes threatened ripple effects are felt throughout entire ecosystems.

As BC develops new protected areas, it's critical these are strategically established to form larger networks of wilderness landscapes that will serve as wildlife corridors. Protecting large and interconnected lands and waters will place us all on a path to a more resilient and vibrant future.

Support these important landscapes

There are plenty of pathways to achieving 30% by 2030. Explore a few of the unique and important landscapes that will help us better safeguard biodiversity in BC:



Ashnola smelqmix Protected Area

Support the səlqmíx, the syilx people of the Similkameen Valley, in their important work to protect water, restore habitat,

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Reference: 402676

September 13, 2023

Their Worship Mayor Marie-Térèse Little
and Councillors
District of Metchosin
4450 Happy Valley Road
Victoria BC V9C 3Z3

Sent via email: mtlittle@metchosin.ca

Dear Mayor Marie-Térèse and Council:

Thank you for your letter of July 18, 2023, regarding the Human Health Risk Report (report) prepared by Trans Mountain Pipeline ULC (Trans Mountain) per Condition 38 of its Environmental Assessment Certificate #17-01 (EAC). Your comprehensive review of the report and recommendations are greatly appreciated. Thank you for your patience with our response.

Condition 38 of the EAC requires that Trans Mountain retain a Qualified Professional to prepare a report that describes the potential impacts to human health resulting from a specified spill scenario in English Bay. Further, the report must be developed in consultation with the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Health, Health Canada, Canadian Coast Guard, Natural Resources Canada, Island Health Authority, Fraser Health Authority, Aboriginal Groups – Marine Shipping and Potentially Affected Coastal Local Governments.

This report was submitted to the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) on August 24, 2023, in accordance with the EAC. In addition to the above noted reviewers, the Ministry of Health recommended that the Office of Provincial Health Officer and the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions review the report as well. In response, the EAO has requested that the Office of Provincial Health Officer and the Ministry of Mental Health provide comments on the report. The EAO will ask Trans Mountain to incorporate the feedback provided by these reviewers into the report and submit a revised report to the EAO.

...2

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Office of the Minister
Mailing Address:
Parliament Buildings
Victoria BC V8V 1X4
Telephone: 250 387-1187
Facsimile: 250 387-1356
Website: www.gov.bc.ca/env

The EAO will review all comments received during the review process and determine if they have been adequately addressed by Trans Mountain in accordance with Condition 3 and Condition 38 of the EAC. The EAO will also reach out to consulted parties to seek their views on whether their comments have been adequately addressed per the EAC. The EAO will share your letter with Trans Mountain so that Trans Mountain has an opportunity to respond and make suitable changes.

I recognize the concerns raised by the District of Metchosin related to the increase in marine traffic—shipping petroleum products—through the Strait of Juan De Fuca. I also recognize the concern related to terminology. As noted above, the EAO will be seeking review and advice from the Ministry of Health reviewers, the Office of Provincial Health Officer and other technical experts on the health-related technical aspects of the report. Based on inputs from all reviewers, the EAO will direct Trans Mountain to make the required changes to the report.

While the spill scenario is not conducted in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, it does provide the EAO and reviewers with the ability to identify key issues that may be relevant for all locations. The EAC specified a particular location (location B, English Bay) as a starting point for this learning process, and the EAO will seek feedback on the appropriateness of a response time of two hours or less for the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

Your letter raises several important points and recommendations, which are discussed below.

1. *The Province to seek the agreement of Transport Canada such that tankers are not permitted to enter our nearby oceans when spill response teams are not permitted to respond due to adverse sea conditions.*

During adverse sea conditions, Transport Canada has planning standards in place related to sea-state conditions. Should an incident occur, and a response is mounted, a full Incident Command Team is established. The Incident Command Team is comprised of the polluter, the Province, the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG), the Western Canada Marine Response Corporation (WCMRC), Indigenous nations and municipalities. Safety of the response team is an important consideration along with effectiveness of equipment.

As you are aware, federal jurisdiction oversees tanker routes and authorization of passages. Transport Canada acts as the lead agency on regulatory matters while the CCG is designated as the on-water federal lead. Directives such as Ship Safety Bulletins are issued by Transport Canada's Marine Safety Directorate and are aimed at vessel owners, authorized representatives and operators of commercial vessels, including other interested marine industry stakeholders. The Ship Safety Bulletins provide a source of accurate and updated ship safety information, which includes conveying timely information pertaining to safeguards against identified risks and/or direction to industry.

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The EAO has reached out to Transport Canada to further discuss this matter and the concerns raised in your email.

2. *It is unrealistic to expect that the time course of response could achieve meaningful containment in the initial phase of air borne COPCs. These are modeled to begin in the first hour. Therefore, eye wash stations and air quality monitoring units should be pre-placed within the community on a proactive basis and community members trained in their use. The cost of the stations and monitoring units and training in their use should not be borne by the municipality.*

The EAO will consider this recommendation in conjunction with inputs from other reviewers.

3. *The Province should assist local governments to:*
    - *Stockpile Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and spill response equipment.*
    - *Develop land-based shoreline response plans, and community-wide evacuation plans.*

The EAO understands that the WCMRC has been working with Indigenous nations and municipalities to help identify local concerns. This includes spill response planning. Through continued engagement, the WCMRC intends to continuously improve their response protocols and have created Coastal Response Packages (CRPs) for communities. The CRPs include sea containers consisting of various spill response equipment that are placed on floating docks or near shore for easy access in the event of an emergency. Additionally, the WCMRC offers to train vessels from interested communities in deploying equipment so they can effectively protect their waters.

Through its Coastal Response Program, the WCMRC is currently in the process of mapping out the location for each of the 28 CRPs along the South Coast with the assistance of Indigenous nations and local coastal communities. The first CRP has been placed on Galiano Island and other possible locations include Saturna Island, Mayne Island, Sooke and Ucluelet. I recommend that the District of Metchosin contact the WCMRC for an engagement session and discuss the possibility of acquiring a CRP.

The EAO will follow up on your recommendation regarding personal protective equipment. This will include discussions with health experts and emergency response experts to determine the need for and type of appropriate personal protective equipment, and potential ways to meet that need.

Your feedback on the Human Health Risk Report is greatly appreciated. As noted above, the EAO will review inputs from all reviewers and may require Trans Mountain to make changes to the report, in accordance with the EAC. EAO staff will be happy to discuss outstanding concerns with your staff once the review of the Human Health Risk Report has concluded.

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Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,



George Heyman
Minister

cc: Jennifer Miller, Legislative Services Assistant, District of Metchosin

DISTRICT OF METCHOSIN

0400-08

July 18, 2023

Honourable George Heyman
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
PO Box 9047
Room 112, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Hon. Heyman,

Re: Human Health Risk Report - Trans Mountain
Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC) Condition 38

Please find enclosed a letter signed by Mayor Marie-Térèse Little July 18th, 2023 on behalf of the District of Metchosin in response to the Trans Mountain Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC) Condition 39.

This letter was drafted by the District of Metchosin's Environmental Advisory Select Committee (MEASC) in consultation with its special advisor, Metchosin resident Dr. Valerie Jaeger, MDCM, PhD (Pharmacology and Toxicology), MPH and forwarded to Council for discussion at its meeting of July 17th where it was passed unanimously.

The District of Metchosin welcomes your collaboration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Sue-Lin Tarnowski, CPA, CMA
Interim Chief Administrative Officer

4450 Happy Valley Road, Victoria, B.C. V9C 3Z3
Administration Office (250) 474-3167 Fax 474-6298
Building Inspection Department (250) 474-3196 Fax 474-6298

DISTRICT OF METCHOSIN

File No. 0400-08

July 18, 2023

Honourable George Heyman
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
PO Box 9047
Room 112, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Hon. Heyman,

Re: Human Health Risk Report - Trans Mountain
Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC) Condition 38

The District of Metchosin has opposed and continues to oppose projects furthering the increase in traffic of petroleum products through the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

We have reviewed the Human Health Risk Report (HHRR) report prepared by Intrinsik for Trans Mountain Pipeline L.P. and appreciate the opportunity to comment. We have considered the report's modelling for Burrard Inlet in the context of a spill in the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Assuming a spill occurs in the most likely areas in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, Metchosin would lie within a Local Assessment Area as defined in the report.

The report is extremely dense and detailed. We make no claim to assess the veracity of the data contained therein. Our comments lie in the conclusions that are drawn from that data as they apply to a shoreline community such as the District of Metchosin.

The **chosen language** of the report itself serves to diminish the significance of a spill in the mind of the reader and diffuses the responsibility for it.

- Consider the word 'sensitive'. Various segments of the population, such as infants, toddlers, young children, the elderly, and those with co-morbidities, are described as 'sensitive' which subtly implies that there is something not quite robust enough in their nature. In fact, they are just normal people who together compromise over 50% of our population.

- A phrase such as 'in the highly unlikely event of a spill' makes it easy to dismiss what immediately follows as being not worthy of our full attention. Similar phrases appear throughout the report. Consider the change in tone if those phrases were replaced by 'in the rare but entirely plausible event of a spill'. The population does not have unreasonable anxiety that needs to be assuaged.

Burden of illness in a community is a function not just of the severity of symptoms but also of the percentage of people experiencing them. Eye irritation and respiratory symptoms are not minor to individuals who are experiencing them, and they are never minor if everyone is experiencing them.

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When almost all members of a community are impacted, eye irritation, nausea, and minor central nervous system depression are not minor symptoms: they cause great individual, family and community stress and would overwhelm current community capacity to care for and mitigate them.

The whole is often greater than the sum of the parts. The report uses common endpoints, such as eye irritation or nerve depression, as a means to group the contaminants to assess possible additive effects. This is rational and measurable but there is an equally important issue to consider. The contaminants, whether petroleum hydrocarbon fragments, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, or volatile organic compounds, will all be competing for the same metabolic pathways, primarily Cytochrome P450 and glutathione S-transferase, in the human body as it tries to break down the toxins. The aggregate biochemical effect of this is very complex and difficult to predict but is almost always more problematic than a simple sum of the individual doses.

Difficulty in dosing medications. The same Cytochrome P450 and glutathione S-transferase pathways are crucial for metabolizing many very common medications including statins, anti-depressants, blood thinners, anti-epileptic drugs and others. There is a rational basis to expect that people in shoreline communities who are taking any of these medications may experience negative effects from blood levels of their medications that could be higher or lower than expected. With statins and anti-depressants being among the most frequently prescribed medications, this amounts to over 10% of the adult Metchosin population.

Data from Burrard Inlet is not necessarily translatable to the Strait of Juan de Fuca. In the analysis of the potential risks from heavy metal exposure, the report states that since the concentration of most of the metals in the sediment of the Burrard Inlet is greater than that in the potential spill, there would likely be no incremental negative effect from heavy metals from the spill. However, one cannot assume that the concentration of heavy metals in the sediment of the Juan de Fuca strait is the same as that in the Burrard Inlet and therefore it may be relevant to consider the potential impact of heavy metals on shoreline communities along Juan de Fuca.

Given the weather and currents in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, it is likely that a response fleet may not be deployable at all at some times of the year. This makes the concluding statement that "the rapid deployment of a response fleet to the spill location (2 hours or less) would reduce the predicted impacts to human health from those described in the HHRR" a misdirection.

Subsistence food is necessary for life – that is what subsistence means. From the HHRR, "The people who live in the LAA could experience adverse health effects from exposure to the larger aromatic hydrocarbons, including PAHs, through the consumption of impacted marine country foods, if subsistence consumption continues unabated." Subsistence food is by definition a necessity of life. The food itself and the harvesting, cooking and eating of that food are defining elements of a culture. Subsistence consumption should not have to be abated in response to external trauma to the environment that need not have occurred.

The chemicals of concern in dilbit are numerous and toxic. Scientific data on them, especially in combination, is incomplete but some things are known for certain. They are known carcinogens, mutagens, destroyers of liver cells, depressors of central nervous system function, and disruptors of DNA. Whenever they have been studied in combination their combined actions are worse than the sum of the parts. They have no known safe levels. They have only 'guideline levels' and 'exposure limits' which differ from country to country and which change over time as societies grapple with a calculus -

the risks of these chemicals weighed against the benefits they purport to bring. When the risks and benefits are not borne by the same community or even the same province, the ethics of the calculus are inherently problematic.
In the case of the transport of dilbit through the Strait of Juan de Fuca, such a calculus exists but is not openly expressed as such. The economic benefits in distant places are being weighed against the detrimental short term and long-term effects on the health and happiness of shoreline communities including Metchosin.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Province to seek the agreement of Transport Canada such that tankers are not permitted to enter our nearby oceans when spill response teams are not permitted to respond due to adverse sea conditions.

2. It is unrealistic to expect that the time course of response could achieve meaningful containment in the initial phase of air borne COPCs. These are modeled to begin in the first hour. Therefore, eye wash stations and air quality monitoring units should be pre-placed within the community on a proactive basis and community members trained in their use. The cost of the stations and monitoring units and training in their use should not be borne by the municipality.

3. The Province should assist local governments to:

    - **Stockpile PPE and spill response equipment**
    - **Develop land-based shoreline response plans, and community-wide evacuation plans**

We welcome your collaboration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Marie-Térèse Little Ph.D.
Mayor

cc: Sc'ianew First Nation
Capital Regional District
Township of Esquimalt
City of Colwood
District of Sooke