

January 20, 2021



Honourable George Heyman
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Parliament Buildings Victoria,
British Columbia V8V 1X4

RE: Funding Support for Invasive Plant Control

At the Regular Council meeting held on January 19, 2021, the Council for the District of Clearwater passed a resolution in support of the Thompson-Nicola Regional District efforts to lobby the government with respect to an increase in provincial funding for treatment of invasive plant species within the TNRD specifically related to:

Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure: Funding for roadside invasive plant treatments within the TNRD be increased to \$5 million over a five-year term (\$1 million per year). This funding request is the estimated cost to treat all roadways within the TNRD on a five-year cycle;

Minister of Forest, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development: Funding for invasive plant treatments within the TNRD be increased to \$5 million over a five-year term (\$1 million per year). This amount of funding will allow treatment of long-standing infestations, current funding only allows for treatment of the highest priority sites leaving many of the infestations spreading unchecked;

Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy: Funding for invasive plant treatments in parks within the TNRD be increased to \$1,250,000 over a five-year term (\$250,000 per year). Currently there are many invasive plant infestations within provincial parks in the TNRD that are spreading unchecked. Devoting more funding to manage weeds within parks is crucial in preventing the overall spread of noxious weeds within the region.

Municipalities within rural BC do not have the capabilities to do an adequate job of invasive plant control and strongly support working with Regional District's and the province to reduce / eradicate the spread of noxious weeds in this province.

Yours truly,

Merlin Blackwell

Mayor

cc. Honourable Rob Fleming, Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure
Honourable Kathrine Conroy, Minister of FLNRORD
Director Ken Gills, Chair, Thompson Nicola Regional District
Councillor Lori Mindnich, President, SILGA

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