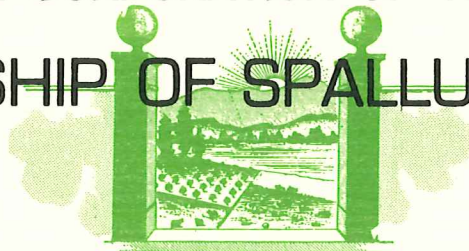


THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF SPALLUMCHEEN

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OUR FILE NO.



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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

December 19th, 2017

Honorable George Heyman
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
PO Box 9047 Stn Prov Govt
Rm 112, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Re: Prevention of Quagga and Zebra Mussels

Dear Minister Heyman,

On behalf of the Township of Spallumcheen, I would like to express my concern about the threat of Quagga and Zebra mussels. In September of 2017 Sicamous submitted a resolution at UBCM that was endorsed requesting more funding from the Provincial Government to increase awareness and education regarding the treat of Quagga and Zebra mussels in BC lakes.

The effects to all BC lakes would be devastating:

- Zebra and Quagga mussels filter water to the point where food sources such as plankton are removed, altering food webs. This also causes clearer water, allowing sunlight to penetrate deeper, increasing growth of aquatic vegetation. Once mussel can produce one million mussels per year.
- Impact on fish and wildlife by increasing toxic algal blooms.
- Large colonies affect spawning areas, impacting the survival of fish eggs.
- Affects recreational activities by cutting swimmers feet as a result of their sharp shell.
- Non-reversible once infested with mussels, all BC lakes will be contaminated and there is currently no solution to destroy the mussels.
- Cost to BC government, taxpayers, and businesses will be billions if mussels get into our ecosystem.
- Ecosystem compromised, water intakes plugged, fish destroyed, beaches destroyed.
- No long-term research provided on drinking water quality.
- Negative impact to tourism.

Solutions:

- Guard the borders – cost BC millions to guard the borders 24/7, 365 days per year to prevent infestation or boat border crossing hours.
- Proper training of our border patrol members – this is a serious issue, they must collect the correct information from boaters (of all kinds such as zodiacs, blow up paddle boards, etc.).
- More conservation officers, with more authority.

- More docks.
- This is no longer a campaign, it should now be a department of the government with funding to continue prevention.
- This is no longer a provincial problem, it is a federal problem, lakes that are contaminated in Canada should not be allowed to let boats leave without inspection to prevent contaminating other lakes.
- Transport Canada should prevent float planes from hopping provinces and states.
- Education – major media campaign announcing BC's commitment to keeping our waters pristine (TV, billboards, newspapers, social media).
- All Municipalities and Regional Districts should run a banner on their website home pages- "British Columbia is committed to keeping their lakes Quagga and Zebra mussel free. Please respect our lakes and border crossing patrols. STOP at the boat inspection stations." This should have a link to a website explaining the seriousness of this issue and explain fines for breaking the law by transporting invasive species.
- All BC tourism sites should also announce and run the banner on their sites. Tourism will stay healthy if BC lakes stay healthy.
- Boaters' registration, should increase education.
- Immediate allocations of funds dedicated to research to enable BC biologists to work on a solution with Manitoba and the US studies research groups. Let's work on removing them together.
- Collaborate with infested US bordering lakes on research and prevention of cross contamination.
- Collaborate with Alberta and Saskatchewan to stay mussel free.

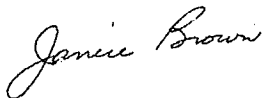
Funding:

BC Government will find the funds (billions) if we lose the battle against mussels, as we'll need to manage the problem. This is how we can help fund the prevention now (millions):

- Out of province user pay at all BC boat ramps.
- Lake passes for BC boaters.
- All fines are allocated back to the program.
- Boat registration increase some funding back to project.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Respectfully,



Janice Brown
Mayor

Cc: Mark Zacharias, Deputy Minister of Environment
Wendy Booth, UBCM President