



December 19, 2017

FILE: 1-1-4

Honourable George Heyman
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Via E-mail: ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca
PO Box 9047 Stn Prov Govt
Rm 112, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8W9E2

Dear Honourable Heyman,

Re: Prevention of Quagga and Zebra Mussels

On behalf of the City of Dawson Creek, I write to express our concern about the threat of Quagga and Zebra mussels. Sicamous submitted a resolution at UBCM that was endorsed requesting more funding from the Provincial Government to increase awareness and Education for the threat of Quagga and Zebra mussels into 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. One mussel can produce one million mussels per year.
- Impact 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 them.
- Cost to British Columbia will be Billions, to government, taxpayers and businesses if mussels manage to get into our eco-system
- Eco-system compromised, water intakes plugged, fish destroyed, beaches destroyed
- No long-term research provided on drinking water quality
- Negative tourism impact

Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Regards,

A handwritten signature, likely of Dale Bumstead, is enclosed within a circular scribble.

Dale Bumstead
Mayor

Cc: Mark Zarcharias, Deputy Minister (via email: DM.ENV@gov.bc.ca)
Wendy Booth, UBCM President (via email: wndbooth@gmail.com)
UBCM Members (via emails)