



DISTRICT OF COLDSTREAM

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"Rural Living At Its Best"

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

File: 0410-20 (Environment)

January 22, 2018

Honourable George Heyman
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Via Email: ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Honourable Heyman:

Re: Prevention of Quagga and Zebra Mussels

On behalf of the District of Coldstream I write to express our concern with respect to the threat of Quagga and Zebra Mussels in our lakes. The District of Sicamous had submitted a resolution at UBCM, which was endorsed, requesting more funding from the Provincial Government to increase awareness and to educate the public and lake users of the threat that is posed by Quagga and Zebra Mussels in our lakes. Some of the negative effects these mussels are noted below.

- Quagga and Zebra Mussels filter water to the point that food sources, such as plankton, are removed, altering food supply in the ecosystem. This also causes clearer water, which allows sunlight to penetrate deeper, encouraging growth of undesirable aquatic vegetation. One small mussel can produce up to one million mussels per year.
- Proliferation of these mussels may increase toxic algal bloom negatively impacting fish, wildlife and spawning areas (reducing the survival of fish eggs).
- The mussels leave behind very sharp shells, which may pose a danger to recreational users.
- Once the mussels are in a water body, they are difficult, if not impossible, to eradicate and they can plug water intakes, destroy habitats and ecosystems, degrade the beaches and negatively impact tourism.

The negative impacts listed above will most certainly create long term economic impacts that are likely to be more expensive than the cost of early education and preventative measures.

We would urge your ministry to increase funding so that we can protect our Lakes. Not only are our lakes a source of beauty, they are home to an abundance of dependent wildlife, a source of our drinking water and a place for residents and tourists to recreate.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 545-5304 or by email at jgarlick@coldstream.ca.

Yours truly,

Jim Garlick
Mayor

PC: UBCM Member Municipalities