Village of Chase

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COPY

January 18, 2018

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

RE: Prevention of Quagga and Zebra Mussels

Dear Minister Heyman:

This letter is being written in support of the District of Sicamous' letter to you in November 2017, expressing concerns about the threat of the Quagga and Zebra mussel in British Columbia lakes.

As has been communicated to you by the District of Sicamous, City of New Westminster, City of Dawson Creek, City of Parksville, Township of Spallumcheen, Town of Oliver, the District of Clearwater and other communities, the threat of the Quagga and Zebra Mussels is very serious and if not aggressively controlled will be extremely devastating to the health of the lakes in BC.

And as you are most certainly aware, invasions to any eco-system of foreign species have an impact not only on the health of the lakes, their vegetation and existing aquatic animal species, but have a direct negative impact on the multi-million dollar economy that is supported by healthy lakes and streams. British Columbia is known worldwide for its abundance of clean water, healthy lakes and streams, and spectacular geography. We need to preserve and protect these amenities.

Everyone in BC saw first hand the immediate effect the 2017 Wildfires have had on the BC economy. We are fortunate that there is time, if acted on quickly, to prevent the devastation that the Quagga and Zebra mussel invasion will have on our lakes.

We hope that you have already begun to work at addressing this serious threat by contemplating not only reactive measures but preventative ones as well.

Sincerely,
VILLAGE OF CHASE

Mayor Rick Berrigan on behalf of Council

Cc: Mark Zacharias, Deputy Minister
Wendy Booth, UBCM President
District of Sicamous
Members, UBCM