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June 22, 2015

File: TH-4990-20 – Mosquito Population

Mel Dorey, Regional Director  
Cowichan Valley Regional District  
11095 Valdon Road  
Ladysmith, BC V9G 1Z2

**RE: Mosquito Control Program on Thetis Island**

Dear Mr. Dorey,

The Thetis Island Local Trust Committee has received a number of reports from local residents that the mosquito population on Thetis Island has been steadily increasing over the past several summers. Aside from the negative impacts on residents' quality of life, mosquito annoyance can also harm the local economy, particularly if tourists are discouraged from visiting or staying on the island.

The Thetis Island Residents and Ratepayers Association (TIRRA) is proactive on this issue, and arranged for Curtis Fediuk, a Registered Professional Biologist from DG Regan and Associates Ltd., to conduct a visit to a site particularly affected by the mosquito incursion. Noted in the attached report to TIRRA, the purpose of this visit was to collect larvae samples from public and private properties that have reported a mosquito issue in order to assess mosquito management options.

All parties agree that public input and education are of primary importance and are key parts of a successful proactive mosquito mitigation plan; however, more needs to be done to ensure that this pest issue does not get out of hand. TIRRA is now seeking to partner with the appropriate governing body for assistance in creating a mosquito management plan. As you are likely aware, the authority to manage "pests" falls under Section 797.1(1)(d) of the Local Government Act, which does not apply to the Islands Trust or Local Trust Committees.

As mosquito abatement is within the legislated authority of the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD), the LTC is writing to request that the CVRD work directly with TIRRA to address this issue. We would be pleased to provide any contact or background information required to facilitate a partnership on this important issue to ensure that it is addressed in a timely manner.

Yours sincerely,

Susan Morrison  
Chair, Thetis Island Local Trust Committee

pc: Brian Carruthers, Chief Administrative Officer, Cowichan Valley Regional District

Attached:

Report by D.G. Ragen and Associates Ltd. Regarding Site Visit, dated March 23, 2015