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June 24, 2019

Attn: Capital Regional District Board
625 Fisgard Street, Victoria B.C.
V8W 1R7

Dear Capital Regional District Board,

I am writing to you on behalf of the North Pender Island Local Trust Committee to request that the Capital Regional District halt all work on modifying Gardom Pond, and undertake broader consultation with the North Pender community and further study of the pond as a resource in a changing climate.

On June 19, 2019, the North Pender Island Local Trust Committee passed the following Resolution:

That the Chair of the North Pender Island Local Trust Committee write to the Capital Regional District Board to request that the Capital Regional District stop all activities around modifying the Gardom Pond Dam, undertake community wide public consultation, and undertake further study of the nature of the pond as a resource in a changing climate.

The North Pender Island Local Trust Committee is making this request due to concerns being raised by the community about the potential impacts of the dam modifications on the groundwater aquifers, and concerns regarding the lack of engagement with the broader community to understand the impacts of the modifications.

The North Pender Island Local Trust Committee believes that the best way to ensure that sound community decisions are made is to ensure that all involved and impacted are included in conversations around the decision. As such, the North Pender Island Local Trust Committee requests that broader community consultation be undertaken on this issue before draining this potentially critical water. This is not an issue that just applies to the water license holders, it is an issue that involves our whole community as it may impact groundwater levels, available water to fight fires, and potentially impacts our abilities to preserve and protect our fragile island ecosystems.

The Islands Trust Council and the Capital Regional District Board have adopted climate emergency resolutions. In March 2019, Islands Trust Council passed the following resolution:

1. *Declare a Climate Change Emergency in the Islands Trust Area.*
2. *Add climate change mitigation, resilience, and adaptation policies to the Islands Trust Policy Statement amendment project.*
3. *Direct the Trust Council Chair to write to the Chairs of Regional Districts in the Islands Trust Area asserting Trust Council's full support for declarations of a Climate Emergency;*
4. *Direct the Trust Council Chair to write to the Provincial Minister of the Environment, asserting the Islands Trust Council's support to help the Province close the 25% emissions gap in the CleanBC Plan, and calling on the Province to provide the powers and resources to local governments;*

5. *Direct the Trust Council Chair to write to the Federal Minister of the Environment, asserting the Islands Trust Council's support to help Canada meet its Nationally Determined Contribution target made in the Paris Agreement and call on the federal government to provide the powers and resources to local governments.*
6. *Direct staff to report back to the June 2019 Trust Council meeting on measures and land-use planning actions that the Islands Trust can take to advance progress toward Local Trust Committee climate reduction targets and achieve further reductions in carbon from Trust operations.*
7. *Direct staff to include a central focus on equitable climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience into strategic planning to provide guidance and support for the Trust Area's efforts to transition away from fossil fuels in ways that prioritize those most vulnerable to climate impacts and most in need of support in transitioning to renewable energy.*
8. *Trust Council directs staff to work with First Nations and First Nations government agencies to seek support for the climate change emergency and to engage to coordinate climate action strategies with First Nations within the Islands Trust Area.*

On February 13, 2019, the Capital Regional District passed the following resolution:

1. *That the Capital Regional District Board declare a Climate Emergency;*
2. *That the CRD take a leadership role to work towards achieving carbon neutrality in the region by 2030;*
3. *That the Board Chair write to all local governments in the region requesting that they also declare climate emergencies and commit to working towards climate neutrality by 2030;*
4. *That staff be directed to submit a Letter of Intent for the \$1 million Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions Theme Partnership Program, in partnership with the University of Victoria, District of Saanich, City of Victoria, Province of BC, and other potential government partners, by the deadline of February 15 2019, with an overall proposed project title: "Mitigation and adaptation through systems integration to support our Paris Agreement: Local to federal actions for a resilient future" with a regional sub-project focused on "CRD" Responding to Climate Emergency Declaration and Meeting 2030 Regional Carbon Neutrality";*
5. *That the CRD Board Chair write to the Provincial Minister of the Environment, assert the CRD's support to help the Province close the 25% emissions gap in the CleanBC Plan, and call on the Province to provide the powers and resources to Local Governments to make the Region's 2030 target possible and advance climate adaptation efforts;*
6. *That the CRD Board Chair write to the Federal Minister of the Environment, assert the CRD's support to help Canada meet its Nationally Determined Contribution target made in the Paris Agreement and call on the federal government to provide the powers and resources to Local Governments to make the Region's 2030 target possible and advance climate adaptation efforts;*
7. *That staff be directed to report back to the committee on specific actions and resources that could be included in future correspondence to senior levels of government.*

The North Pender Island Local Trust Committee understands that work, which addresses the concerns with the dam risks, have been underway for several years. In light of the climate emergency declared by the Capital Regional District Board and the Islands Trust Council, it is prudent to pause the work on

modifying the dam until the pond's role in water retention and supply on the island is better understood within a changing climate.

As stated in the Object of the *Islands Trust Act*, we can only achieve our objective to preserve and protect these islands for current and future generations with the cooperation of other agencies and governments. We would appreciate the Capital Regional District Board's cooperation in addressing the community and climate emergency concerns to ensure the best outcome for the environment and community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laura Patrick', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Laura Patrick,
North Pender Island Local Trust Committee

cc North Pender Island Local Trust Committee
cc Islands Trust Executive Committee
cc Robert Kojima, Southern Islands Regional Planning Manager
cc Ben Martin, CRD Project Manager