Capital Regional District

625 Fisgard St.,
Victoria, BC V8W 1R7

Notice of Meeting and Meeting Agenda
Environmental Services Committee

Wednesday, February 18, 2026 | **9:30 AM** | **6th Floor Boardroom, 625 Fisgard St. Victoria, BC V8W 1R7**

B. Desjardins (Chair), S. Tobias (Vice Chair), J. Brownoff, J. Caradonna, G. Holman, D. Kobayashi, C. Plant, M. Tait, D. Thompson, A. Wickheim, C. McNeil-Smith (Board Chair, ex-officio)

The Capital Regional District strives to be a place where inclusion is paramount and all people are treated with dignity. We pledge to make our meetings a place where all feel welcome and respected.

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

2. Approval of Agenda

3. Adoption of Minutes

3.1. 26-0155 Minutes of the Environmental Services Committee meeting of January 21, 2026

Recommendation: That the minutes of the Environmental Services Committee meeting of January 21, 2026 be adopted as circulated.

Attachments: Minutes - January 21, 2026

4. Chair's Remarks

5. Presentations/Delegations

The public are welcome to attend CRD meetings in-person.

Delegations will have the option to participate electronically. Please complete the online application at www.crd.ca/address no later than 4:30 pm two days before the meeting and staff will respond with details.

Alternatively, you may email your comments on an agenda item to the CRD Board at crdboard@crd.bc.ca.

6. Committee Business

6.1. 26-0114 Regional Canada Goose Management Service - 2025 Updates

Recommendation: The Environmental Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:
1. That staff be directed to extend the funding for the Goose Management Service for the 2027-2031 service planning period at the current requisition level; and,
2. That staff be directed to initiate an amendment to Bylaw No. 4522 Canada Goose Management Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 2022 in 2027 to increase the maximum allowable requisition and accommodate any increases based on Board direction.

Attachments:
- Staff Report: Regional Canada Goose Mgmt. Service - 2025 Update
- Appendix A: Bylaw No. 4522 Canada Goose Management
- Appendix B: Regional Canada Goose Mgmt. 2025 Program Accomplishments
- Appendix C: 2025 Canada Goose Population Survey Report
- Appendix D: 2025 Canada Goose Egg Addling Report
- Presentation: Regional Canada Goose Management Program

6.2. 26-0115 Regional Invasive Species Program Update

Recommendation: There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.

Attachments:
- Staff Report: Regional Invasive Species Program Update
- Appendix A: RISP 2020-2025 Program Accomplishments
- Appendix B: Capital Region Invasive Plant List
- Presentation: Update on the Regional Invasive Species Program

6.3. 26-0113 Model Demolition Waste and Deconstruction Bylaw

Recommendation: The Environmental Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:
That this model Demolition Waste and Deconstruction Bylaw be distributed to staff at municipalities in the capital region for consideration and independent review.

Attachments:
- Staff Report: Model Demolition Waste and Deconstruction Bylaw
- Appendix A: Model Demolition Waste and Deconstruction Bylaw - Sample

6.4. 26-0112 Previous Minutes of Other CRD Committees and Commissions for Information

Recommendation: There is no recommendation. The following minutes are for information only:
- Climate Action Inter-Municipal Task Force - December 12, 2025
- Solid Waste Advisory Committee - January 9, 2026

Attachments:
- Minutes: Climate Action Task Force (December 12, 2025)
- Minutes: Solid Waste Advisory Committee (January 9, 2026)

7. Notice(s) of Motion

8. New Business

9. Adjournment

The next meeting is March 18, 2026.

To ensure quorum, please advise Jessica Dorman (jdorman@crd.bc.ca) if you or your alternate cannot attend.

Meeting Minutes

Environmental Services Committee

Wednesday, January 21, 2026 **9:30 AM** **6th Floor Boardroom**
625 Fisgard St.
Victoria, BC V8W 1R7

PRESENT
Directors: B. Desjardins (Chair), J. Brownoff (EP), J. Caradonna, G. Holman (EP), D. Kobayashi (EP), C. Plant (EP), M. Tait (9:44 am)(EP), D. Thompson (9:38 am)(EP), A. Wickheim (EP), C. McNeil-Smith (Board Chair, ex-officio)

Staff: T. Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer; L. Jones, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Environmental Services; S. May, Senior Manager, Corporate Capital Project Delivery Services; R. Smith, Senior Manager, Environmental Resource Management; M. Tromp Hoover, Manager, Environmental Resource Management Policy and Planning; M. Lagoa, Deputy Corporate Officer; J. Ives, Committee Clerk; J. Dorman, Committee Clerk (Recorder)

EP - Electronic Participation

Regrets: Director S. Tobias (Vice Chair)

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am.

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

Chair Desjardins provided the Territorial Acknowledgment.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Director McNeil-Smith, SECONDED by Director Caradonna,
That the agenda for the Environmental Services Committee meeting of January 21, 2026 be approved.
CARRIED

3. Adoption of Minutes

3.1. 26-0084 Minutes of the Environmental Services Committee meeting of November 19, 2025

MOVED by Director Caradonna, SECONDED by Director McNeil-Smith,
That the minutes of the Environmental Services Committee meeting of November 19, 2025 be adopted as circulated.
CARRIED

4. Chair's Remarks

Chair Desjardins spoke about the items of the agenda and their focus on the future of solid waste management and Hartland Landfill.

5. Presentations/Delegations

There were no presentations or delegations.

6. Committee Business

6.1. 26-0083 2026 Environmental Services Committee Terms of Reference

M. Lagoa presented Item 6.1. for information.

6.2. 26-0012 Beyond Hartland 2050 - Landfill Design Plan and Alternative Options

R. Smith spoke to Item 6.2.

Director Thompson joined the meeting electronically at 9:38 am.

Director Tait joined the meeting electronically at 9:44 am.

Discussion ensued on the following:
- circular economy, waste reduction and aversion
- financial implications, consultant costs, and alternative revenue streams
- solid waste management plan implementation and endorsement
- technology improvements and conceptual designs
- opportunities for diversion, beneficial uses and trends

MOVED by Director Caradonna, SECONDED by Director McNeil-Smith,
The Environmental Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:
1. That staff commission a conceptual design plan to build out Phase 3 of Hartland Landfill in alignment with Strategy 15 of the 2021 Solid Waste Management Plan;
2. That staff develop a comprehensive options analysis that outlines and evaluates a broad set of future waste disposal alternatives to landfilling at the Hartland site;
3. That staff include timely information on these planning activities in the scope of ongoing government-to-government conversations with First Nations who have identified solid waste management as a topic of interest; and
4. That staff present the results of the above activities to the Board in 2027, including a shortlist of options to inform early development of the CRD's 2030 Solid Waste Management Plan.

MOVED by Director Caradonna, SECONDED by Director McNeil-Smith,
That consideration of Part 1 of the motion be postponed until Quarter 2 in 2027 to first consider a comprehensive set of alternatives:
"1. That staff commission a conceptual design plan to build out Phase 3 of Hartland Landfill in alignment with Strategy 15 of the 2021 Solid Waste Management Plan;"
DEFEATED
Opposed: Brownoff, Desjardins, Holman, Kobayashi, McNeil-Smith, Plant, Tait

MOVED by Director Holman, SECONDED by Director Caradonna,
That Part 2 of the motion be amended by adding the following:
"That a more aggressive recycling program be included as part of the waste disposal options analysis."

The Chair ruled the motion out of order.

Director Holman challenged the Chair.

The Chair called for a vote on whether the Chair shall be sustained.
SUSTAINED
Opposed: Holman

The question was called on the main motion:
1. That staff commission a conceptual design plan to build out Phase 3 of Hartland Landfill in alignment with Strategy 15 of the 2021 Solid Waste Management Plan;
2. That staff develop a comprehensive options analysis that outlines and evaluates a broad set of future waste disposal alternatives to landfilling at the Hartland site;
3. That staff include timely information on these planning activities in the scope of ongoing government-to-government conversations with First Nations who have identified solid waste management as a topic of interest; and
4. That staff present the results of the above activities to the Board in 2027, including a shortlist of options to inform early development of the CRD's 2030 Solid Waste Management Plan.
CARRIED
Opposed: Caradonna, Holman

6.3. 26-0011 Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities - Committee on Solid Waste and Circular Economy Update

R. Smith presented Item 6.3. for information.

6.4. 26-0006 Tendering Hartland Landfill Cell 5B Construction Services

S. May spoke to Item 6.4.

Discussion ensued on the following:
- financial reserves and infrastructure requirements
- wastewater and environmental return
- data collection and statistics distribution

MOVED by Director McNeil-Smith, SECONDED by Director Tait,
The Environmental Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:
That staff are authorized to issue the Invitation to Tender for Construction Services for the infrastructure required for Hartland Landfill Cell 5B with the work to commence in 2026.
CARRIED

7. Notice(s) of Motion

There were no notice(s) of motion.

8. New Business

There was no new business.

9. Adjournment

MOVED by Director Caradonna, SECONDED by Director McNeil-Smith,
That the Environmental Services Committee meeting of January 21, 2026 be adjourned at 11:08 am.
CARRIED

_____
CHAIR

_____
RECORDER

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EEP 26-09

REPORT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2026

SUBJECT **Regional Canada Goose Management Service – 2025 Updates**

ISSUE SUMMARY

To seek Committee direction regarding the 2027–2031 service planning process for the Regional Canada Goose Management Service.

BACKGROUND

The Regional Canada Goose Management Service was established in 2023 to work with key regional partners and governments to reduce the impacts of the rapidly growing Canada Goose (CAGO) population and coordinate implementation of the Regional Canada Goose Management Strategy (RCGMS). The Capital Regional District (CRD) Board funded the service for four years with the intention of revisiting based on key performance indicators (e.g., regional population, addling success, harvest levels).

PROGRAM UPDATES

Service levels were enhanced in 2025 by using the maximum allowable requisition ($252,226) through Bylaw No. 4522 Canada Goose Management Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 2022 (Appendix A), and available reserve funds ($48,605). This allowed a considerable expansion of the egg addling program into new areas, two annual goose harvests (instead of one) and involvement of First Nations partners in the mitigation and monitoring efforts. A summary of 2025 Program Accomplishments is provided in Appendix B.

The current resident population is approximately 6,000 Canada geese (Appendix C). The RCGMS identifies a target regional population of approximately 1,000 geese to minimize the negative impacts of geese. Sustained addling efforts are resulting in a stabilization of the goose population (Appendix D). The use of operating reserve funds to expanded activities (addition of part-time staff to assist in the spring addling program and an additional summer harvest) implemented in 2025 resulted in an immediate 11% reduction in the resident population. A comparable result is expected in 2026.

The first three years of this service have demonstrated an ability to control the CAGO population in the region. However, more resources are needed to reduce it to the target of 1,000 geese. Opportunities for partnerships and contracts with First Nations are starting to be realized and are consistent with reconciliation efforts. The work also compliments efforts around food security and protection of agricultural values, and biodiversity and environmental stewardship.

As it is presently administered, the service is at its maximum allowable requisition in 2026; operating reserve funds will be eliminated by year-end; the part-time coordinator's four-year term ends; and the service is not currently funded beyond this year, consistent with the 2026-2030 Preliminary Budget.

Given the Board's broad direction to minimize overall requisition increases for CRD services, staff are bringing service level options forward for consideration and direction by this Committee and the CRD Board in advance of the 2027-2031 service planning process.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1
The Environmental Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:
1. That staff be directed to extend the funding for the Goose Management Service for the 2027-2031 service planning period at the current requisition level; and,
2. That staff be directed to initiate an amendment to Bylaw No. 4522 Canada Goose Management Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 2022 in 2027 to increase the maximum allowable requisition and accommodate any increases based on Board direction.

Alternative 2
The Environmental Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:
1. That staff be directed to extend the funding for the Goose Management Service with additional resources identified through the Initiative Business Case process as part of the 2027-2031 service planning period; and,
2. That staff be directed to initiate an amendment to Bylaw No. 4522 Canada Goose Management Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 2022 in 2027 to increase the maximum allowable requisition and accommodate any increases based on Board direction.

Alternative 3
The Environmental Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:
That staff be directed to not fund the Goose Management Service for the 2027-2031 service planning process.

IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Implications

Reducing the Canada Goose population to a sustainable target level of 1,000 geese is necessary to reduce existing impacts. The current population of approximately 6,000 geese continue to severely affect regional farmlands, degrade coastal ecosystems and impact recreational activities. Social and public health concerns are rising due to high densities of fecal matter on beaches and recreational playing fields, water contamination, goose conflicts, and increased risk of exposure to avian influenza.

Enhanced activities (expansion of the addling program, additional harvests) led to a reduced regional population and made significant progress towards the regional target population (Appendices C and D).

The removal of nearly 6,000 geese since 2022 through population mitigation resulted in an 11% decline in the resident population based on the summer moult surveys. These data indicate that egg addling efforts are effectively stabilizing population growth, but harvests are needed to achieve a substantial population reduction over the short-term. Dual harvests and continued expansion of egg addling program are planned for 2026.

Enhanced service levels, like those deployed in 2025 and 2026 using reserve funds, would enable

further expansion of the egg addling program, and ensure two annual harvests from key hotspots over the next four years. This would maintain substantial population reduction required to meaningfully ease the environmental, recreational, and economic impact across the region.

Intergovernmental and First Nations Implications

Several municipal partners identified capacity issues to fully participate in egg addling programs but expressed support for additional CRD staffing to conduct addling on their lands. Several First Nations are participating in the program with ongoing conversations regarding participation by other Nations. Recent Memorandums of Understanding between the CRD and First Nations will help facilitate these discussions. The Nations have identified environmental and social benefits as a result of their participation. Currently, the program has limited funds available for First Nations to assist with addling, harvesting, and population surveys. Enhanced service levels will enable contracts with more First Nations to participate in the service and steward their territorial lands. This service supports the CRD Board's priorities regarding First Nations engagement and collaboration.

Financial Implications

There is a clear correlation between service levels and key outcomes for the service. The elimination of the service would result in an increasing trend in the regional Canada Goose population. Maintaining the status quo level of service would stabilize the population at its current level but not likely reduce the overall population. Adding an enhanced level of service would see a continued decline in the regional population.

Ending the Regional Goose Management service in 2027 would not alter the overall requisition for CRD services since it is not currently accounted for in the 2026-2030 Preliminary Budget. Continuing with the service level at the expected maximum requisition would add 0.29% ($298,267; or approximately $1.51/household) to the overall CRD requisition increase. Adding the proposed enhancement to the service level would add approximately 0.34% ($351,877; or approximately $1.78/household) to the overall requisition increase.

The recommendation balances the progress being made in the service with an awareness of the Board's concerns for fiscal responsibility and the constraints on future requisitions. The recommendation also acknowledges the limited internal resources to accommodate a bylaw amendment this year, especially given the upcoming municipal election process. Staff are proposing to amend the bylaw in 2027 based on Board direction.

The 2027-2031 service plan and budget process will determine requisition levels for the service and this committee's recommendations will inform consideration of future support for the service.

CONCLUSION

The Regional Canada Goose Management Service has shown early success in reducing the regional goose population, supporting ongoing wildlife management, and engaging First Nations for environmental, economic, and social benefits. Continued service would further mitigate agricultural, economic, environmental, public health, and recreational impacts associated with the resident population.

The service is currently funded only through 2026. Extending the program at an enhanced level

for the 2027–2031 service planning cycle would increase the Capital Regional District's requisition by approximately 0.34%. Given current fiscal constraints, staff seek Board direction as part of the 2027–2030 service planning and budget process.

RECOMMENDATION

The Environmental Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

1. That staff be directed to extend the funding for the Goose Management Service for the 2027-2031 service planning period at the current requisition level; and,
2. That staff be directed to initiate an amendment to Bylaw No. 4522 Canada Goose Management Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 2022 in 2027 to increase the maximum allowable requisition and accommodate any increases based on Board direction.

Submitted by:	Glenn Harris, Ph.D., Senior Manager, Environmental Protection
Concurrence:	Luisa Jones, MBA, General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Environmental Services
Concurrence:	Varinia Somosan, CGA, CPA, Acting Chief Financial Officer & General Manager, Finance & Technology
Concurrence:	Kristen Morley, J.D., Corporate Officer & General Manager, Corporate Services
Concurrence:	Ted Robbins, B. Sc., C. Tech., Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A: Bylaw No. 4522 Canada Goose Management Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 2022
Appendix B: 2025 Regional Canada Goose Management – 2025 Program Accomplishments Summary
Appendix C: 2025 Canada Population Survey Report (September 2025)
Appendix D: 2025 Canada Goose Egg Addling Report (September 2025)
Presentation: Regional Canada Goose Management Service – 2025 Update

CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT
BYLAW NO. 4522

****

A BYLAW TO ESTABLISH A SERVICE FOR THE PURPOSE OF CANADA GOOSE MANAGEMENT

****

WHEREAS:

A. The Board of the Capital Regional District wishes to establish a regional Canada Goose monitoring and coordination service (the "Service") to address increasing populations of non-migratory, resident Canada geese populations, reduce their environmental impacts and to coordinate management of Canada geese with public authorities and groups across the capital region under s.263(1)(a) of the *Local Government Act*;

B. Participating area approval is required and assent of the electors has been obtained by regional alternative approval process, pursuant to s. 342(4) of the Local Government Act; and,

C. The approval of the Inspector of Municipalities has been obtained under s. 343(1)(a) of the *Local Government Act*.

NOW THEREFORE the Regional Board of the Capital Regional District, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

Service

1. The Service being established and to be operated is a service for the purpose of regional Canada Goose management and coordination, including, without limiting the foregoing:

   a) monitoring, mapping, reporting on Canada Goose populations and their impacts;

   b) coordinating and establishing collaborative partnerships with municipalities, First Nations, large landowners, Peninsula and Area Agricultural Commission, government agencies, and stewardship groups to implement the Regional Canada Goose Management Strategy and manage Canada Goose populations in the region;

   c) facilitating the development and implementation of a communications strategy and public education program to support the management of Canada Goose populations; and

   d) collaboration with other Vancouver Island regional districts, local governments and First Nations to reduce Canada Goose populations through the Vancouver Island Canada Goose Management Working Group.

Boundaries

2. The boundaries of the service area are coterminous with the boundaries of the Capital Regional District.

Participating Areas

3. All municipalities and electoral areas within the Capital Regional District are the participating areas for this service.

Cost Recovery

4. As provided in Section 378 of the *Local Government Act*, the annual cost of providing the Service shall be recovered by one or more of the following:
   (a) property value taxes imposed in accordance with Division 2 of Part 11 of the *Local Government Act*;
   (b) fees and charges imposed under Section 397 of the *Local Government Act*;
   (c) revenues raised by other means authorized by the *Local Government Act* or another Act;
   (d) revenues received by way of agreement, enterprises, gift, grant or otherwise.

Cost Apportionment

5. (a) The annual costs for the service, net of grants and other revenues, shall be apportioned among the participating areas, as follows:

      i. Fifty (50) per cent of the costs shall be recovered on the basis of the population of the participating areas; and
      ii. Fifty (50) per cent on the converted value of land and improvements in the participating areas.

   (b) Population, for the purpose of this section, is the population estimate as determined annually by the Regional Planning department of the Capital Regional District.

Maximum Requisition

6. In accordance with Section 339 (1)(e) of the Local Government Act, the maximum amount that may be requisitioned annually for the cost of the Service is the greater of:

   (a) Two hundred and fifty-one thousand nine hundred ($251,900); or

   (b) An amount equal to the amount that could be raised by a property value tax rate of $0.0016 per ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS ($1,000.00) that, when applied to the net taxable value of the land and improvements within the Service Area, will yield the maximum amount that may be requisitioned for the Service.

Citation

7. This Bylaw may be cited as the “Canada Goose Management Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 2022”.

READ A FIRST TIME THIS	12th	day of	October, 2022
READ A SECOND TIME THIS	12th	day of	October, 2022
READ A THIRD TIME THIS	12th	day of	October, 2022
APPROVED BY THE INSPECTOR OF MUNICIPALITIES THIS	8th	day of	December, 2022
RECEIVED PARTICIPATING AREA APPROVAL UNDER SECTION 342(4) OF THE *LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT* THIS	23rd	day of	January, 2023
ADOPTED THIS	8th	day of	February, 2023

CHAIR

CORPORATE OFFICER

FILED WITH THE INSPECTOR OF MUNICIPALITIES THIS 27th day of February, 2023.

Regional Canada Goose Management Program

2025 Program Accomplishments

Making a difference...together

Capital Regional District | Environmental Protection

A summary of the Regional Canada Goose Management Program's collaborative efforts and program accomplishments for 2025 is below. Key priorities included the population surveys, expanded addling efforts across agricultural, public and private lands, two humane goose harvests with First Nations communities, and a strong outreach program to engage farmers and First Nations partners. The strategy recommends the use of management tools such as preventing feeding, habitat modifications, water management, hazing, egg addling, hunting, harvests, and public outreach. The goal identified in the Regional Canada Goose Management Strategy (RCGMS) is to reduce impacts from geese by achieving a sustainable target population of around 1,000 individuals.

Collaboration & Capacity Building

- **Coordinated the Regional Canada Goose Working Group (RCGWG):** The Regional Canada Goose Working Group, made up of representatives from local governments and First Nations, provincial and federal partners, the Peninsula and Area Agricultural Commission, and other key stakeholders, met quarterly to share information, coordinate efforts across the region and to advise the program. Membership in this group is increasing with more municipalities and First Nations attending and includes 29 representatives from government agencies and First Nations with interest in, or management responsibilities for Canada geese within the capital region and four landowner groups involved in goose management on their properties (Peninsula and Area Agricultural Commission, North Saanich Agricultural and Food Security Advisory Committee, Metchosin Agricultural Advisory Select Committee and the Victoria Airport Authority).
- **Hosted training workshops for RCGWG members** on Canada geese, egg addling techniques, finding nests, winter and summer population surveys.
- **Engaged interested First Nations** participation in the program (harvests, population surveys) and developed contracts to outline their participation.
- **Engaged with Agricultural Communities**: part-time coordinator strengthened relationships and established key partnerships with the Peninsula and Area Agricultural Commission, First Nations, local and senior levels of government, farmers, non-profit groups, and public and private landowners to implement the RCGMS.
- **Strengthened and developed new relationships with partners in the region** such as stewardship groups and conservancies, Environment Canada and Climate Change Canadian Wildlife Service (ECC-CWS) and Ministry of Agriculture.
- **Outreach Program:** staff began to implement a campaign to increase public awareness of the regional impacts of the growing Canada Goose (CAGO) population and to engage with landowners and rightsholders experiencing impacts. This included an invitation to First Nations and has resulted in four First Nations participating in various aspects of the program.

Region-wide Population Surveys:

- The 2025 population survey summary report is included in Appendix C.
- **Winter Survey (Feb 3-5, 2025):** First-ever region-wide winter survey completed with 208+ locations surveyed, including 1,645 hectares of farmland using drones. A total of 9,166 resident and migrating geese were recorded representing a 35% increase from the 2024 moult survey (6,669 geese); some areas lacked data so the actual winter numbers may be higher. Critically high concentrations of geese (>1,000) were found on farmland in Saanich,

Central Saanich, North Saanich & Metchosin. Smaller concentrations (200–500) of geese were found on Pender and Galiano Islands.1,800 migratory Dusky geese (Branta canadensis occidentalis) were counted at Elk Lake in Saanich.

- Summer Moult Survey (June 23–27, 2025): Annual survey covered 380 locations and 600 km of shoreline. High winds prevented surveys on Sidney, James, and Darcy Islands. Survey showed large numbers of CAGO in key estuary areas suffering damage and estimates the current regional resident CAGO population at 5,950 individuals, which is an 11% decline from the 2024 summer moult survey. The largest concentrations of geese were found in or near estuaries, lakes and ponds in Saanich, Sooke, Oak Bay, and Gulf Islands. In Colwood, the population dropped from 598 (2024) to 130 (2025) due to a nearby First Nation harvest.

Population Mitigation

Population mitigation, which includes nest surveys, egg addling and goose harvests, is a core aspect of the Regional Canada Goose Management Service.

- Property Access & Expanded Addling Program: Private property access increased by 30% over 2024 in Saanich, Central Saanich, Victoria, and the Gulf Islands. Over 90 property owners granted CRD staff access for nest surveys and egg addling. CRD staff continue to build capacity and extend egg addling into new areas. Nests on 37 additional properties were addled by groups including DND, Parks Canada, Guardians of our Salish Estuaries and private landowners.
- Regional Permit: Obtained a regional damage or danger permit from ECC-CWS, allowing landowners to authorize CRD staff access with a simple waiver. Improved efficiency and reduced administrative burden for staff and property owners.
- Nest Surveys & Egg Addling Program: Conducted from March–May on public and private lands, additional nest and gosling surveys completed in May and June. A total of 401 nests were found and 1.876 eggs addled by CRD staff (190 nests with 907 eggs treated) and partner groups (211 nests with 969 eggs treated). About 72% of nests were located on agricultural lands, 17% in public parks and 11% on recreational, residential and industrial properties. The detailed Canada Goose Egg Addling Report is attached as Appendix D.
- Canada Goose Harvest: The CRD engaged an external contractor who worked with First Nations partners to conduct two humane goose harvests from key hotspots along the Oak Bay/Victoria and Central Saanich shorelines. A total of 738 geese were harvested: 525 from Oak Bay & 213 from Central Saanich. All usable meat was processed, delivered to a commercial butcher, and distributed to participating First Nations (Tsawout, Malahat and Songhees Nations). All goose carcasses were collected and transported to a private farm for composting. Compost will be used to propagate *Carex spp.* for use in restoring estuaries damaged by Canada geese.

Since 2022, coordinated egg addling programs have prevented approximately 7,300 CAGO eggs from hatching. Considering an estimated 59% gosling survival rate, this means 4,300 CAGO were prevented from joining the breeding population through egg addling alone.

Another 1,200 adult CAGO were removed through three harvests with First Nations partners in 2024 and 2025. Despite removing nearly 6,000 geese through population mitigation, a comparison of 2024 and 2025 summer moult survey data showed only an 11% decline in the resident population. This data suggest that egg addling efforts are effectively stabilizing growth of the CAGO population, but harvests are needed to achieve a substantial population reduction over the short term. Dual harvests and continued expansion of egg addling program are planned for 2026.

2025 Canada Goose Population Survey Report

Regional Canada Goose Management Strategy

Capital Regional District | Environmental Protection

Photo by Samantha Hammond

Prepared by:

Regional Canada Goose Management Program

Capital Regional District

625 Fisgard Street, PO Box 1000
Victoria, BC V8W 2S6

September 2025

1.0 Acknowledgements

The Capital Regional District (CRD) conducts its business within the territories of many First Nations, including but not limited to BOḰEĆEN (Pauquachin), MÁLEXEŁ (Malahat), Paaʔčiidʔatx̣ (Pacheedaht), Pune'laxutth' (Penelekut), Sc'ianew (Beecher Bay), Songhees, SȾÁUTW̱ (Tsawout), T'Sou-ke, WJOŁEŁP (Tsartlip), WSIKEM (Tseycum), and xʷsepsəm (Esquimalt), all of whom have a long-standing relationship with the land and waters from time immemorial that continues to this day.

The CRD would like to recognize the hard work and dedication of the numerous groups who made this year's Canada goose population surveys in the capital region possible. These groups are as follows:

- CRD staff and outreach team
- Malahat Nation
- Agile Drone Services
- Rocky Point Bird Observatory
- Galiano Island Conservancy
- Mayne Island Conservancy
- Saturna Island Marine Research and Education Society
- Pender Island Conservancy
- District of Saanich parks staff
- City of Victoria parks staff
- Town of Sidney staff
- Swan Lake Christmas Hill Sanctuary
- Numerous golf courses
- Individuals such as Bette Longland, Dave Aylard, Graeme Garvin, the Michells family, Kate Pheonix and Jim Reisin for allowing us onto their properties to use drone technology.

The CRD would also like to recognize the hard work and dedication of groups who contributed to Canada goose (CAGO) population surveys in the past including the Peninsula Area and Agricultural Commission (PAAC), Guardians of our Salish Estuaries (GooSE), Ministry of Agriculture and Rocky Point Bird Observatory (RPBO).

Figure 1. Photo from the CRD boat during moult survey (photo by Samantha Hammond)

Figure 2. Photo of drone provided by Agile drones during winter survey (photo by Samantha Hammond)

2.0 Introduction

Historically, Canada geese (CAGO) found on Vancouver Island were occasional migratory visitors over the autumn and winter months and were very rarely seen nesting. In the 1960's and 70's a CAGO introduction program was implemented by the Canadian Wildlife Service, BC Fish and Wildlife Branch and various other organizations to increase wildlife viewing and hunting opportunities in the capital region. The introduced geese were young birds from various subspecies of Canada geese who were unable to learn migrating behaviour patterns from their parents. Eventually these geese interbred, creating a hybrid population of non-migratory resident geese which are not native to the region [1] [2].

According to Christmas Bird Count data, the current Vancouver Island CAGO population ranges from 16,000-21,000 with an estimated 9,000-11,000 birds overwintering in the capital region [3]. The exponential growth of the regional CAGO population is degrading coastal ecosystems and waterways by over-grazing, trampling vegetation, soil erosion and the spread of invasive species. These areas include endangered Garry Oak ecosystems, near-shore islands in ecological reserves, and estuaries that are critical habitats for young salmon [4] [5] [6]. Increased public health concerns have risen from public and private recreational sites including parks, sports fields, swimming beaches, golf courses and farmlands. These concerns are due to high densities of fecal matter, degradation and contamination of water sources, territorial goose conflicts and spread of disease [7]. Significant economic impacts have occurred with local farmers experiencing financial losses from CAGO damaging crops through grazing and soil erosion, increasing maintenance costs, and contaminating crops and water with their droppings. Poultry farms are also at risk of exposure of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza from CAGO [8]. These impacts have resulted in increased pressure on local governments to take coordinated action.

In 2012, the CRD partnered with municipalities and other stakeholders to develop a Regional Canada Goose Management Strategy (RCGMS) to provide guidance for controlling the adverse impacts that the population of non-migratory, resident CAGO have in the capital region [2]. These management tools include population monitoring, preventing feeding, habitat modification, hazing, egg addling, hunting, harvesting and public outreach. Since its development, numerous actions have been undertaken with hazing strategies becoming the most popular. Unfortunately, without a coordinated approach, geese and their associated impacts have moved into new areas, expanding the nesting and overwintering populations.

In February 2023, the CRD Board approved the Canada Goose Management Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 2022 (Bylaw No. 4522) that aims to reduce the impact of the rapidly growing CAGO population in the region. This bylaw was adopted after receiving elector assent through a regional alternative approval process. The RCGMS includes:

- monitoring, mapping and reporting on CAGO populations and their impacts.
- coordinating and establishing collaborative partnerships with municipalities, First Nations, large landowners, Peninsula and Area Agricultural Commission, other government agencies and stewardship groups to implement the CRD's RCGMS.
- development and implementation of a communications strategy and public education program to support the management of CAGO populations.
- collaborating with other Vancouver Island regional districts, local governments and First Nations to reduce CAGO populations through the Vancouver Island Canada Goose Management Working Group.

Population surveys are an important component of the RCGMS and are utilized to inform regional decisions and show the effectiveness of applied management techniques. Winter CAGO populations are counted during the annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) and portions of the CRD were surveyed in 2019 and 2020. Hot spot surveys in the region have been completed since 2021, and in 2024 a complete regional moult survey that included all municipalities and electoral districts was conducted (See Appendix A). In the winter, non-migratory resident Canda geese move around the region and spend more time grazing on farmlands, estuaries, parks and recreational fields. These geese can act as an attractant, bringing more migrant subspecies into these areas, increasing their impact and inflating the population. In late June and July, CAGO moult their flight feathers and congregate with their young of the year near bodies of water. At this time, they are unable to fly and will stay in their chosen area for long periods, presenting a unique opportunity to conduct an accurate population count that includes young-of-the-year amounts with little chance of overlapping results. A collaborative approach that includes partnership with CRD staff, local First Nations and local stewardship groups allowed us to conduct a coordinated winter and moult survey of CAGO across the capital region. This report outlines the methods and results of the 2025 Regional Canada Goose Winter and Moult Surveys.

3.0 Methods

3.1 Collaboration and Training

The capital region covers 1,502.24 km^2 and consists of 13 municipalities and electoral districts which includes the Southern Gulf Islands. Numerous groups across the capital region were asked to participate in the survey:

- First Nations: A request was sent out to all local First Nation groups within the capital region requesting a partnership that included the use of their boat, boat operator and a staff member. Malahat Nation agreed to participate with two members of their nation and a boat. Songhees and Tsawout Nation have expressed an interest in participating in future years.
- Stewardship groups: Groups from all over the capital region were contracted to participate in the survey. These groups included Rocky Point Bird Observatory, Galiano Island Conservancy, Mayne Island Conservancy, Pender Island Conservancy, Saturna Island Marine Research and Education Society, Castilleja Conservation Society and Friends of Victoria Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary.
- Large landowners and managers: Staff from areas with large numbers of CAGO were contacted and asked to count geese in their areas. Participants included CRD Parks, Saanich Parks, City of Victoria, Township of Sidney, Horticulture Centre of the Pacific, Swan Lake Christmas Hill Sanctuary, Royal Colwood Golf Club, Highland Pacific Golf, Olympic View Golf, Victoria Golf Club and Mount Douglas Golf Course.
- Training: A survey guide was developed and distributed to all participants of the winter and moult surveys to ensure all participants in the surveys followed the same data collection protocols, learned how to use the Geographic Information System (GIS) survey tool called GooseWatch, and knew how to identify adult and juvenile CAGO.
- Testing: Participants were encouraged to test out GooseWatch in the field prior to the survey dates.

3.2 Data Collection

To ensure reliability of the CAGO survey results, the following measures were implemented to achieve high accuracy in the population counts:

- All participants received survey guides to ensure consistency in collecting data and identifying and counting CAGO. Most of the 2025 participants also participated in 2024 and attended a 30 minute training session.

- Equipment: Binoculars, cell phone or tablet, FULCRUM app, camera and printed data sheets (See Appendix B).
- The FULCRUM app or GooseWatch tool were used to track GPS locations, population counts, photos and additional data while in the field. The data was entered on a phone or iPad and was also written on a hard paper copy (Appendix B). Data collected on GooseWatch was later entered into FULCRUM by CRD staff.
- During the moult survey, adult and juvenile CAGO population numbers were counted by two surveyors and compared for accuracy. One person entered the data, the other wrote a hard copy. Pictures were taken at each site that could be used to confirm numbers after.
- Photographs were taken during both winter and moult surveys. These images were reviewed later to verify and cross-check the initial counts.

3.3 Winter Survey

CAGO are capable of flying during the winter. The agricultural lands, parklands and shorelines of the capital region were separated into zones and assigned to each participant prior to the survey. Surveys were completed using land-based counts and aerial drone counts from February 3-5, 2025.

- The survey was originally split between two mornings and participants were asked to complete surveys between 8 am and 12 pm.
- Urban centres, forests and steep rocky shorelines were omitted from the survey.
- The suitable areas were divided into sections and assigned by date to reduce the chances of CAGO moving between areas and resulting in overlapping results (Table 1).
- Non-migratory and migratory subspecies of Canada geese were included in the total number of overwintering geese observed during the survey.
- Many participants were unable to complete the survey on February 4 due to a snowstorm so an additional day was included on February 5 to allow more time for surveyors to complete their sections.

Table 1. Locations and groups by winter survey date (large landowners counted CAGO during survey dates but are not included below

2025 Date	Survey Zones	Method	Groups Participating
February 3	Salt Spring Island, Pender Island, Mayne Island, North Saanich, Sidney, Central Saanich, Saanich, Oak Bay	Drone and land surveys	CRD staff, Rocky Point Bird Observatory (RPBO), Township of Sidney, Saanich Parks, Mayne Island Conservancy, Pender Island Conservancy, Department of National Defense (DND), Jacques Sirois
February 4	Sooke, Victoria	Land surveys	CRD staff, RPBO
February 5	Esquimalt, View Royal, Metchosin, Colwood, Juan de Fuca Electoral Area	Drone and land surveys	CRD staff, RPBO, City of Victoria Parks, View Royal Parks, Swan Lake Nature House

3.4 Moult Survey

The shorelines of the capital region were separated into zones and assigned to each boat prior to the survey. The shorelines, lakes and other areas not covered by boat or drone were separated into zones and assigned to land groups.

- Canada geese congregate in large open areas that have access to sufficient food and water; protected shorelines are favoured where geese can move in and out of the water with ease. The topography of the region was reviewed and areas with a high probability of moulting CAGO were chosen for the survey.
- The suitable areas were sectioned by dates to reduce the chances of CAGO moving between areas and resulting in overlapping results (Table 2).
- Urban centres, forests and steep rocky shorelines were omitted from the survey.
- Moulting hot spots are identified in three categories: location of concern, hot spot and critically high (Table 3).

Table 2. Locations and groups by moult survey date (large landowners counted CAGO during survey dates but are not included below)

2025 Date	Survey Zones	Method	Groups Participating
June 23	Port Renfrew – Juan de Fuca Electoral Area, Saanich parks and lakes, Langford, Highlands	Land surveys	CRD staff, RPBO, Municipal staff
June 24	Salt Spring Island, Saturna Island, Sidney, North Saanich, Prevost Island, Tumbo Island, Anniversary Island	Land and boat surveys	CRD staff, Malahat Nation, RPBO, Municipal staff, Parks Canada, Saturna Island Marine and Education Society
June 25	Galiano Island, Mayne Island, Pender Island, Beecher Bay to Sooke, West Coast from Saanich Inlet to Swartz Bay, Piers Island, Moresby Island, Portland Island	Land and boat surveys	CRD staff, Malahat Nation, RPBO, Galiano Conservancy, Pender Island Conservancy, Mayne Island Conservancy
June 26	Central Saanich, Saanich, private farmlands, Oak Bay and Islets, Victoria, Gorge Waterway, View Royal	Drone, land and boat surveys	CRD staff, RPBO, Jacques Sirois and Matt Fairbarns, Municipal staff
June 27	Colwood, Esquimalt, Metchosin, Esquimalt Harbour	Land and boat surveys	CRD staff, Parks Canada, RPBO

Table 3. Table describing each hot spot classification used to describe areas with significant concentrations of moulting geese

Hot Spot Classification	Threshold	Management Recommendation
Location of Concern	> 150	Population management should be considered when resources permit to prevent further escalation and mitigate local impacts
Hot Spot	> 350	Targeted management efforts recommended to reduce population impacts. Concentrations may extend along a shoreline or bay.
Critically High	> 1,000	Urgent intervention is required to prevent long-term ecological, recreational, economic or public health impacts.

4.0 Results

4.1 Winter Survey

The 2025 Regional Canada Goose Winter Survey was completed during the week of February 3-5, 2025 and spanned all 13 municipalities and electoral districts in the capital region. Surveys were not conducted on some of the Southern Gulf Islands including Saturna Island, Galiano Island and various smaller islands such as Sidney and James Island. The data collected on Galiano Island was obtained from a landowner's observation on the GooseWatch survey tool. Heavy snow accumulation on February 3 and 4 prevented numerous participants from getting out to conduct CAGO surveys. As a result of this, Esquimalt and Salt Spring Island surveys were incomplete. A total of 208 locations were surveyed successfully including an estimated 1,645 hectares of farmland surveyed by drone (Figure 3).

A total of 9,166 CAGO were recorded during the winter survey conducted in the CRD (Figure 4). This represents an approximate 35% increase compared to the 2024 regional moult survey, which estimated a population of 6,669 geese. In Saanich, 1,800 overwintering geese were identified as the migratory Dusky goose (*Branta canadensis occidentalis)*, a subspecies of the Canada goose [9]. The largest concentrations of overwintering geese were discovered in Saanich, Central Saanich, North Saanich and Metchosin (Table 4). The Gulf Islands showed smaller concentrations of overwintering geese with Pender and Galiano Islands containing the majority (Table 5). With some regions missing sufficient survey data, it is likely that not all geese were accounted for. The actual population is estimated to be higher than the reported amount.

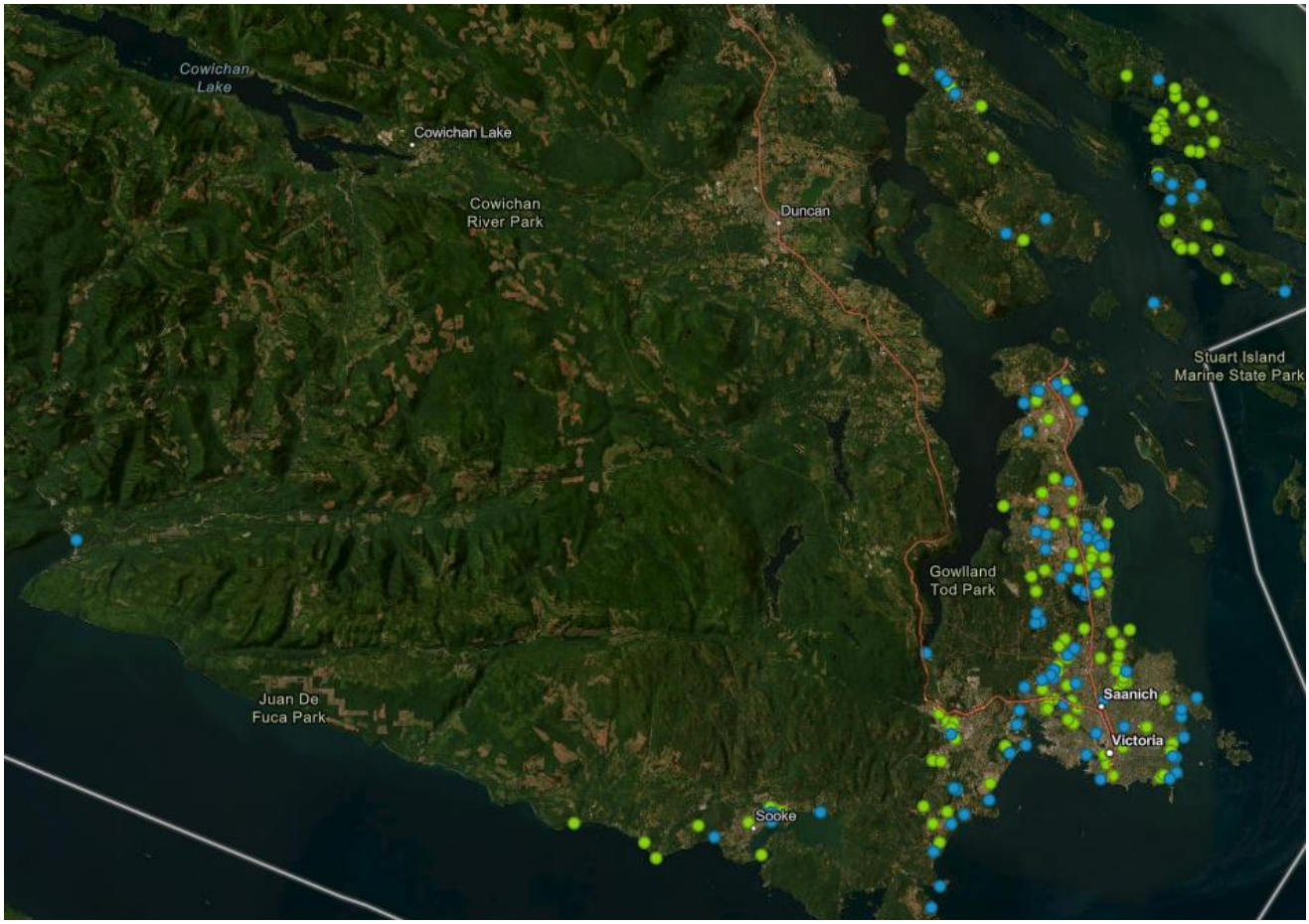

Figure 1. Data points collected in the FULCRUM app during the 2025 Regional Canada Goose Moult Survey. Green dots represent sites with no geese and blue dots represent sites with geese.

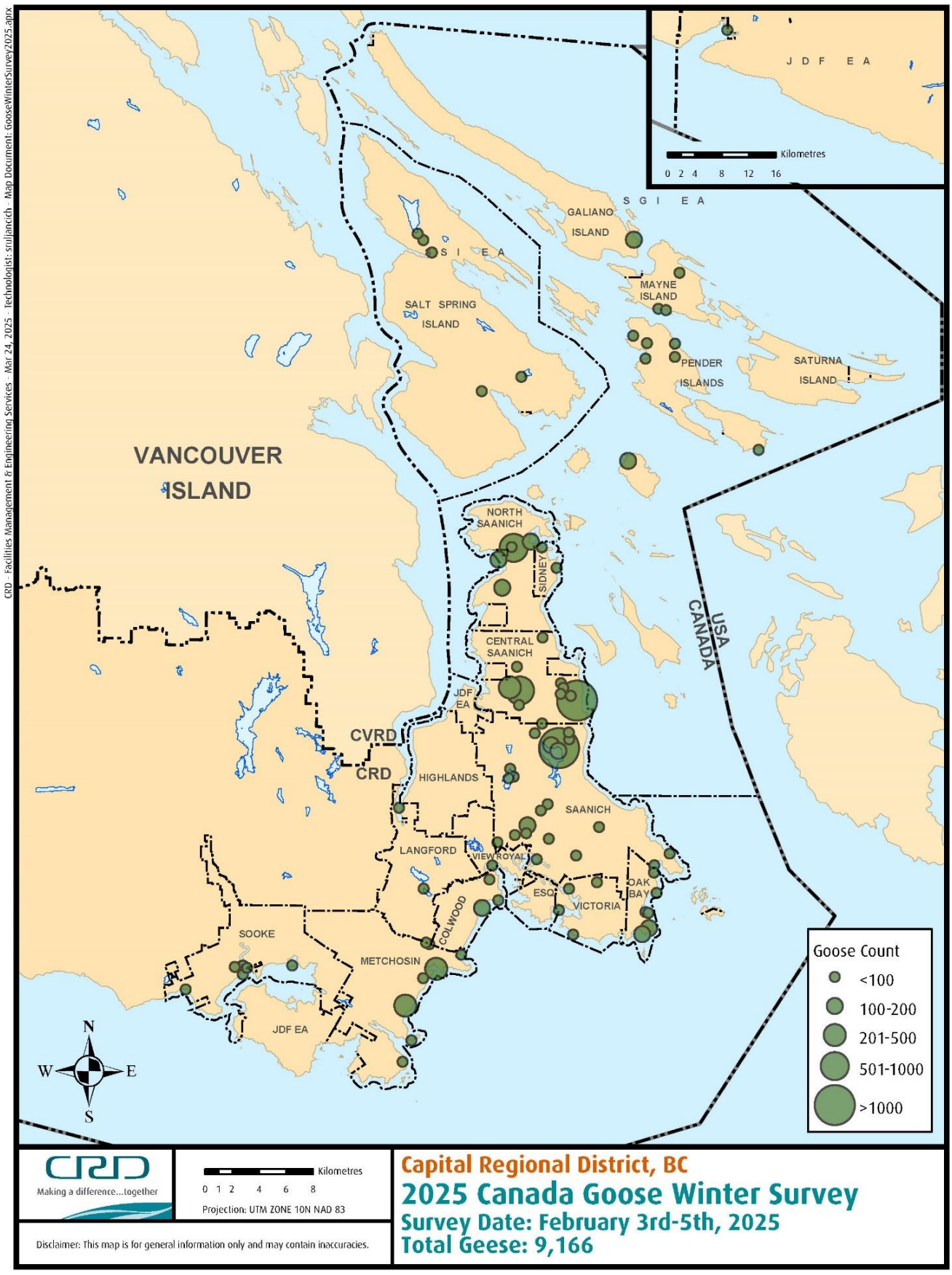

Figure 2. Results of the 2025 Regional Canada Goose Winter Survey. Western portion of Juan de Fuca Electoral Area shown in upper corner of map.

Table 4. Population totals of CAGO for the municipalities and electoral districts included in the 2025 Regional Canada Goose Winter Survey

Region	Total Geese
Central Saanich	2,524
Colwood	282
Esquimalt	1
Gulf Islands	639
Juan de Fuca Electoral Area	8
Langford	105
Metchosin	678
North Saanich	1,060
Oak Bay	472
Saanich	*2,804
Sidney	137
Sooke	253
Victoria	157
View Royal	46
Total	9,166

**1,800 of these identified as the Dusky goose subspecies (Branta canadensis occidentalis)*

Table 5. Population totals of CAGO for each of the Gulf Islands included in the 2025 Regional Canada Goose Winter Survey

Gulf Island	Total Geese
Galiano Island	200
Mayne Island	19
Moresby Island	111
Pender Island	186
Salt Spring Island	123
Total	639

4.2 Moult Survey

The 2025 Regional Canada Goose Moult Survey was successfully completed by all participants during the week of June 23-27, 2025 and covered all 13 municipalities and electoral districts in the CRD. A total of 380 locations were surveyed, including over 600 km of shoreline. Of these locations, 168 sites were found to have geese and 212 recorded no geese (Figure 5). On June 25, high winds and large ocean swells off the coast of North Saanich prompted the Malahat Nation boat captain to terminate the boat survey of the smaller Gulf Islands prematurely. As a result, CAGO surveys for Sidney, James and Darcy Islands were not completed.

A total of 4,580 adult and 1,155 juvenile CAGO were counted during the survey bringing the total to 5,953 (Figure 6). This shows an overall reduction of 11% compared to the 2024 Regional Canada Goose Moult Survey results of 6,669 geese. The largest concentrations of moulting CAGO were recorded in Saanich, Sooke, Oak Bay and the Gulf Islands (Table 6). On the Gulf Islands, the largest populations were found along the shorelines of Salt Spring Island and Pender Island (Table 7). In Colwood, a hot spot from previous years, the population dropped from 598 in 2024 to 130 in 2025 (Figure 7). This is likely due to the harvest led by First Nations that occurred in the area in 2024. Juvenile numbers were recorded during the survey, and 1,155 juveniles were counted in total, representing 19.4% of the total population. The largest numbers of juveniles were discovered in Oak Bay, Saanich, Victoria and the Gulf Islands. Although the survey was

extensive, some of the smaller Gulf Islands were missed and it is probable that not all CAGO in the capital region were recorded; the actual population may be higher.

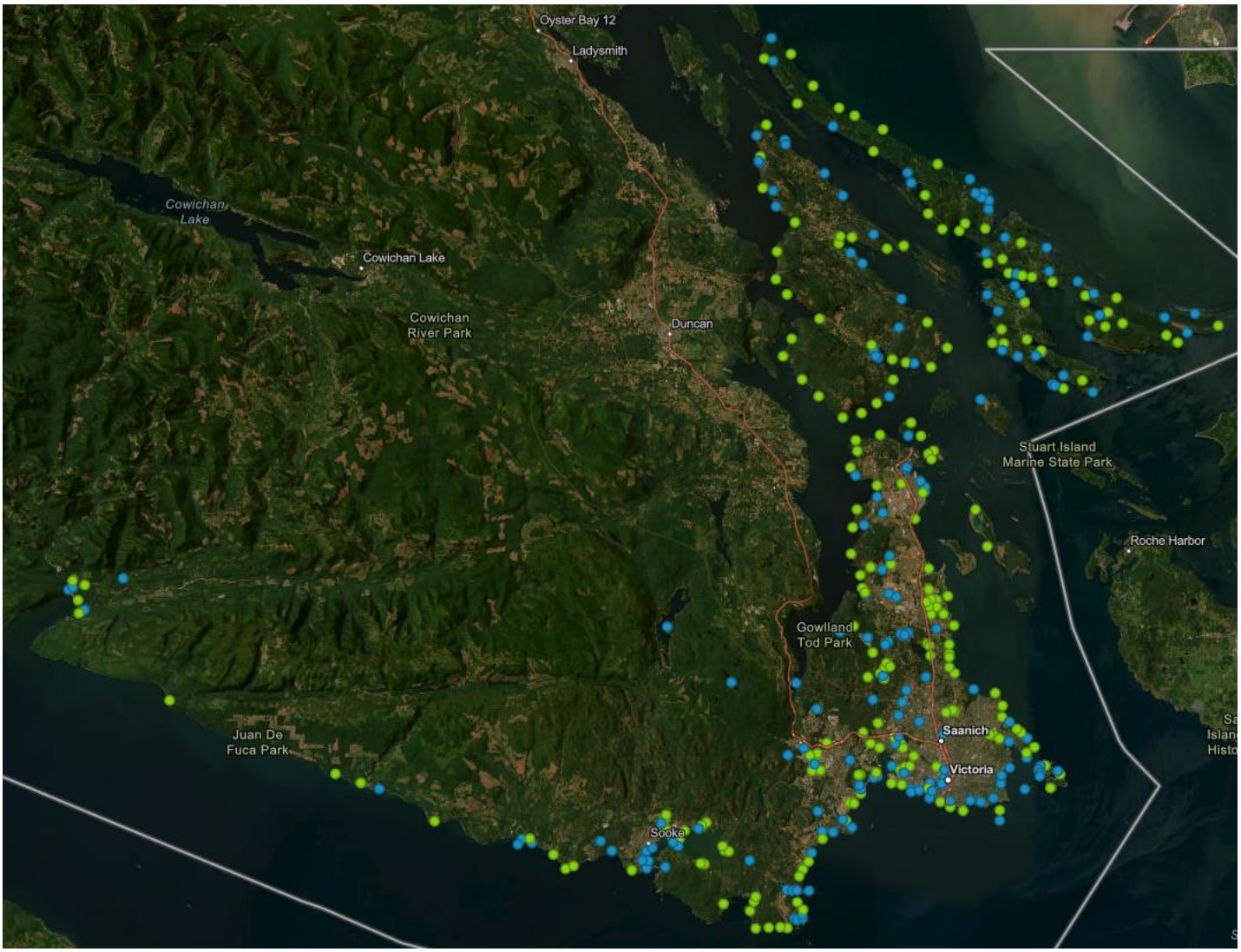

Figure 3. Data points collected in the FULCRUM app during the 2025 Regional Canada Goose Winter Survey. Green dots represent sites with no geese and blue dots represent sites with geese

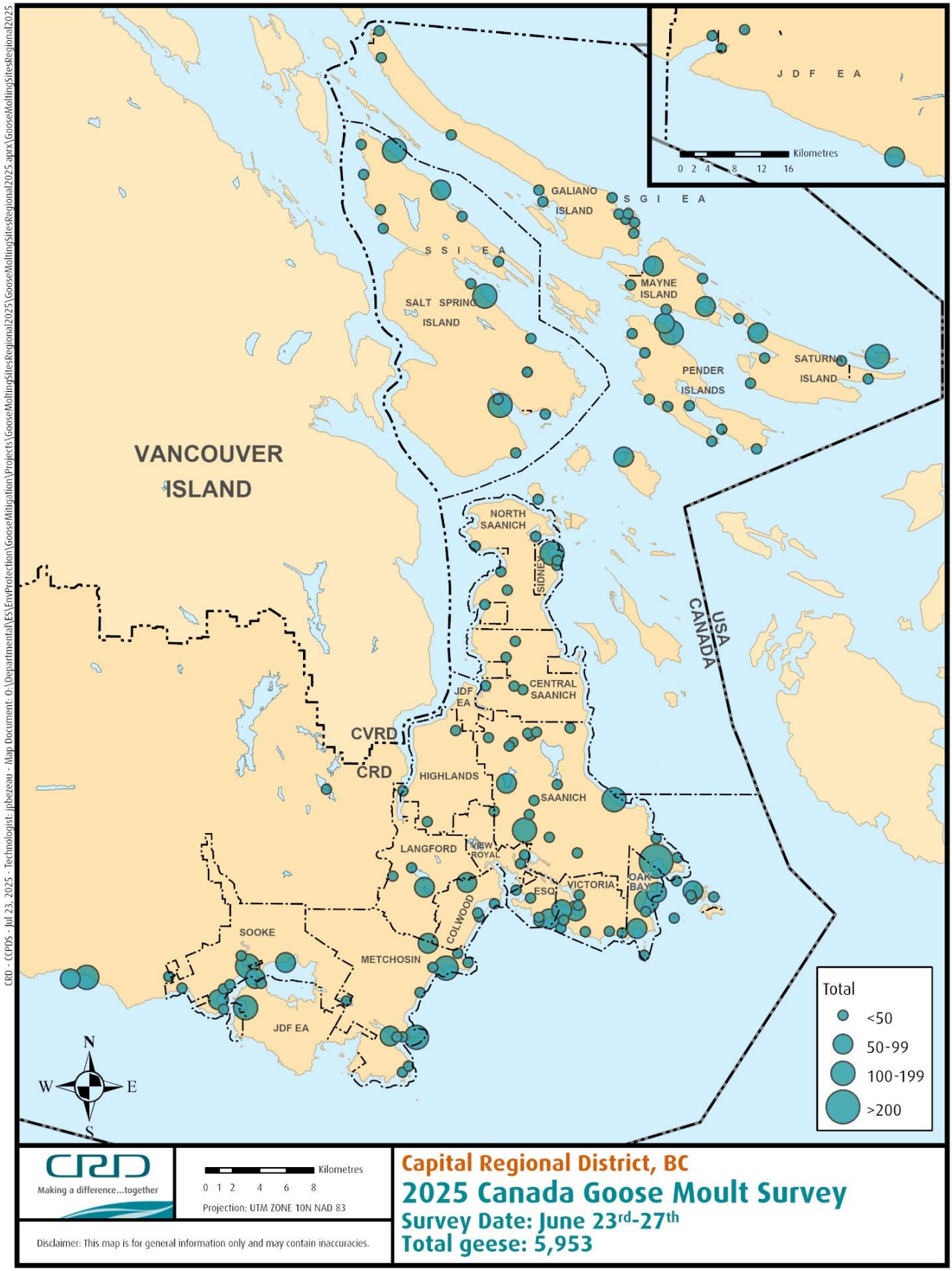

Figure 4. Results of the 2025 Regional Canada Goose Moult Survey. Western portion of Juan de Fuca Electoral Area shown in upper corner of map

Table 6. Population totals of CAGO for the municipalities and electoral districts included in the 2025 Regional Canada Goose Moult Survey

Region	Adult	Juvenile	Total
Central Saanich	59	43	102
Colwood	104	26	130
Esquimalt	167	65	232
Gulf Islands	1,531	225	1,756
Highlands	20	12	32
Juan de Fuca Electoral Area	356	35	416
Langford	135	35	170
Metchosin	453	47	500
North Saanich	80	31	111
Oak Bay	430	329	759
Saanich	297	116	606
Sidney	198	10	208
Sooke	628	79	707
Victoria	112	102	214
View Royal	10	0	10
Totals	4,580	1,155	5,953

Table 7. Population totals of CAGO for each of the Gulf Islands included in the 2025 Regional Canada Goose Moult Survey

Gulf Island	Adult	Juvenile	Total
Galiano Island	167	26	193
Mayne Island	164	41	205
Moresby Island	59	25	84
Pender Island	312	35	347
Piers Island	15	0	15
Salt Spring Island	580	78	658
Samuel Island	10	0	10
Saturna Island	101	20	121
Tumbo Island	123	0	123
Totals	1,531	225	1,756

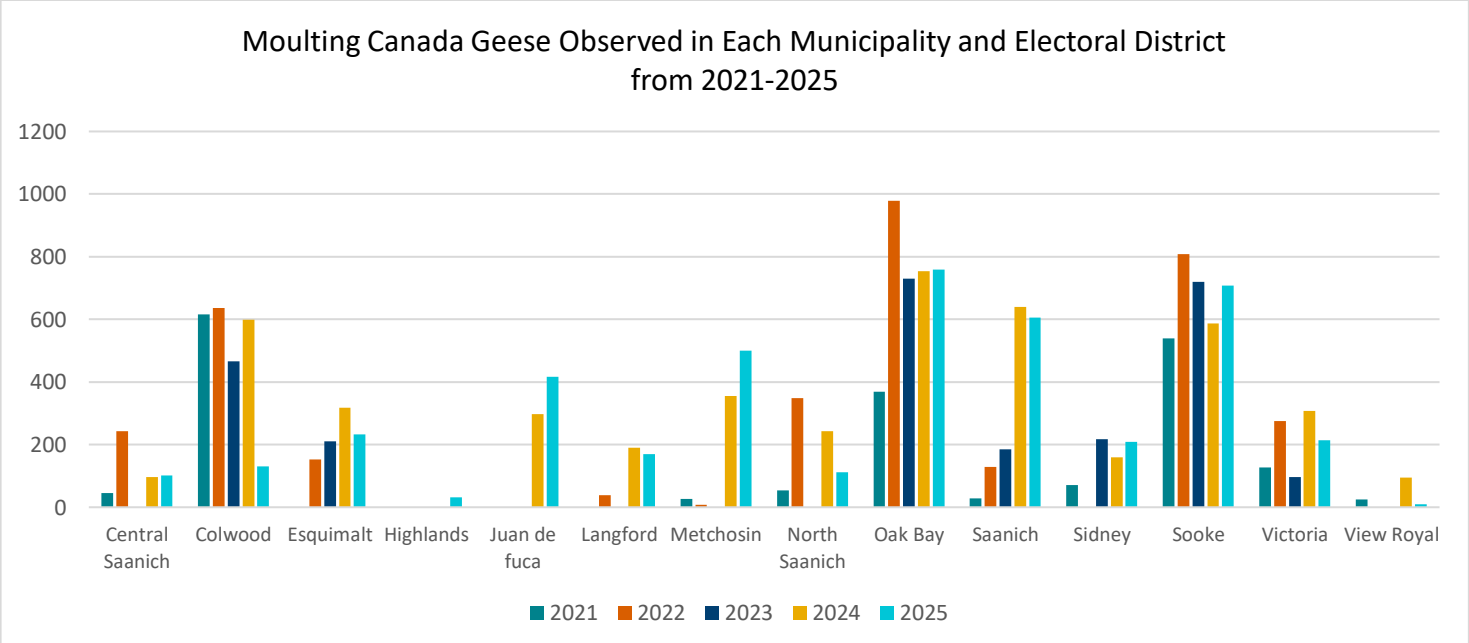

Figure 5. Bar graph comparing the total number of moulting geese observed in each municipality and electoral district of the CRD except for the Gulf Islands. Population data from 2017-2023 obtained from Guardians of Our Salish Estuaries (GooSE) reports to the CRD.

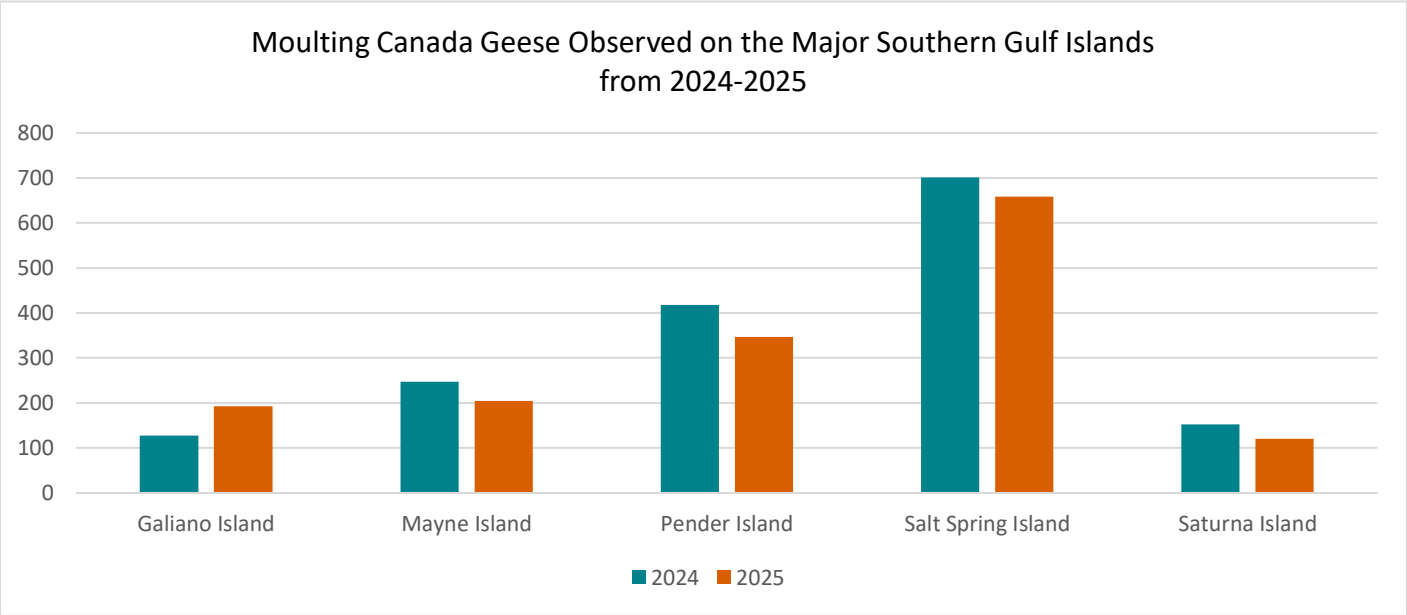

Figure 6. Bar graph comparing the total number of moulting geese observed in each of the major Southern Gulf Islands, during the 2024 and 2025 moult survey

5.0 Discussion

Past population surveys of overwintering Canada geese have been conducted as part of the Christmas Bird Count (CBC), a citizen science project hosted by Birds Canada in partnership with the National Audubon Society. This year they counted a total of 6,119 Canada geese in the capital region. However, a population survey specific to Canada geese spanning the entire CRD had not been completed until now. In 2020, Guardians of Our Salish Estuaries (GooSE) conducted a winter CAGO survey in partnership with RPBO from Sooke to Sidney, where a total of 3,431 geese were counted [10]. The results from the 2025 Regional Canada Goose Winter Survey indicate that the overwintering population is higher than anticipated, with a total of 9,166 geese. This is a 35% increase from the 2024 Regional Canada Goose Moult population survey of 6,669 (See Appendix A). The winter population is likely even higher as population surveys on Salt Spring Island, Esquimalt and Saturna Island were incomplete due to poor weather.

The 2025 Regional Canada Goose Winter Survey identified critically high concentrations (populations over 1,000 individuals) of overwintering geese in Saanich, Central Saanich and North Saanich with an additional large population in Metchosin. During the winter months, CAGO congregate in agricultural fields causing significant impacts to the farming community and posing risks to the food security on southern Vancouver Island. Our resident CAGO may serve as ecological beacons, attracting other migratory species of geese contributing to an overall increase in the regional population. Among the overwintering individuals, approximately 1,800 Dusky Canada geese (*Branta canadensis occidentalis*), a subspecies of Canada goose was identified, representing 20% of the total wintering population. This subspecies population was identified by a member of the local birding community who observed the population roosting overnight on Elk Lake. Other goose species that are often observed in the winter months, but were not recorded during this survey, include the Cackling goose (*Branta hutchinsii*), Snow goose (*Anser caerulescens)* and the Greater white fronted goose (*Anser albifrons).* As a result of the snowstorm, geese were absent from many expected locations. However, where geese were present, they were observed in high concentrations. The snow cover enhanced visibility, making it easier to detect geese using aerial drone surveys (see photo in Appendix C).

This year's 2025 Regional Canada Goose Moult Survey confirmed previously identified hot spots from past surveys, including new ones identified in 2024. The shorelines of Sooke Harbour, Oak Bay and Victoria continue to have the highest concentrations of moulting geese. The municipality of Saanich has multiple locations of concern, with over 49% of the geese found in Saanich discovered on local farmlands. A similar phenomenon was found in Central Saanich, where 100% of the moulting population was discovered on agricultural lands. These populations were mostly found in smaller congregated groups around ponds or other wetland areas on private property. The shorelines of Sidney, Metchosin and the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area contain locations of concern around Muir Creek, William Head, Pedder Bay and Roberts Bay where the local population are now over 150 individuals. Future management efforts should be expanded to include these locations, particularly around Roberts Bay and Muir Creek where no known egg addling or harvest with First Nations are known to occur. Colwood's CAGO population was concentrated in the Esquimalt Lagoon and had been classified as a hot spot, however the local population has been reduced by 79% over the past year. This is an encouraging result of the harvest with First Nations that occurred in the past year, however ongoing monitoring should remain in the area to ensure the population numbers do not rebound.

The 2025 Regional Canada Goose Moult Survey included juvenile recruitment surveys which count the number of juvenile geese that have been recruited into the local population of CAGO. The largest populations of juvenile CAGO were counted in Oak Bay, Saanich, Victoria and the Gulf Islands, and represent 19.4% of the population. This indicates that more work needs to be done, and the egg addling program should be expanded in these areas to effectively reduce the number of geese recruited into the population in 2026. Unfortunately, some areas on private properties in Saanich have known CAGO nesting but have denied access to CRD technicians for the regional addling program. Additional high concentrations of juveniles were seen in Cadboro Bay, the end of Bowker Avenue on the beach and on the Songhees Walkway. More investigation needs to be done to discover where these geese are nesting. While it is expected that some nests and eggs will be missed every year, the program strives for a lower recruitment rate to ensure the long-term success of mitigation efforts to reduce the overall population.

The previous Regional Canada Goose Moult Survey conducted in 2024 showed a moulting population of approximately 6,669 geese. The 2025 Regional Canada Goose Moult Survey indicates a population of 5,953 resident CAGO which is 11% less that than the previous year's estimate. The 2024 and 2025 moult surveys involved comparable levels of sampling effort, with each survey conducted by a similar number of participants and duration. However, weather related cancellations in 2025 resulted in approximately 70km less shoreline coverage.The observed reduction can also be attributed to the combined results of numerous mitigation efforts. Over the past five years, egg addling efforts have prevented 4,282 CAGO from entering the resident population. In 2024, 465 geese were harvested by First Nations and approximately 240 were hunted with permits from ECCC-CWS or during open hunting season [11]. After the 2025 Regional Canada Goose Moult Survey concluded, an additional 738 geese were harvested by local First Nations. Despite the pressure applied by reduction techniques, the overall resident CAGO population remains high but appears to have stabilized.

Based on the observed11% decline between the 2024 and 2025 moult surveys, it would take up to 16 years to reach the RCGMS target population of 1,000 geese if current mitigation efforts are maintained (Figure 9). To achieve a population goal of 1,000 geese in the next 10 years, the program should aim for an annual decline of 17%, to achieve the goal in five years, the rate would need to be 30% (Figure 7).

Additional resources should be allocated to increase the population decline to 17% to ensure population targets are met by 2035. This can be achieved by funding 2-3 annual First Nations harvests with a goal of removing 12-15% of the adult population. The regional egg addling program should be expanded into new areas to reduce the annual recruitment rate from approximately 20% to under 10% which is required to limit further population growth. The egg addling window is short, and additional personnel will be needed to cover more area and increase nest management visits. Greater educational outreach focused on crop protection and landowner rights may further support increased hunting opportunities and regional engagement. To achieve a population decline of 30% significant resources and coordination between First Nations, contractors, landowners, governments would be required. In addition to reducing the annual recruitment rate to under 10% another 30% of the adult population would need to be removed through harvests with First Nations, hunting and crop protection. In 2025, that would equate to 1,800 birds. It is unclear if a harvest of this size would be possible and alternative methods such as traditional fishing methods and hunting would need to be funded and researched.

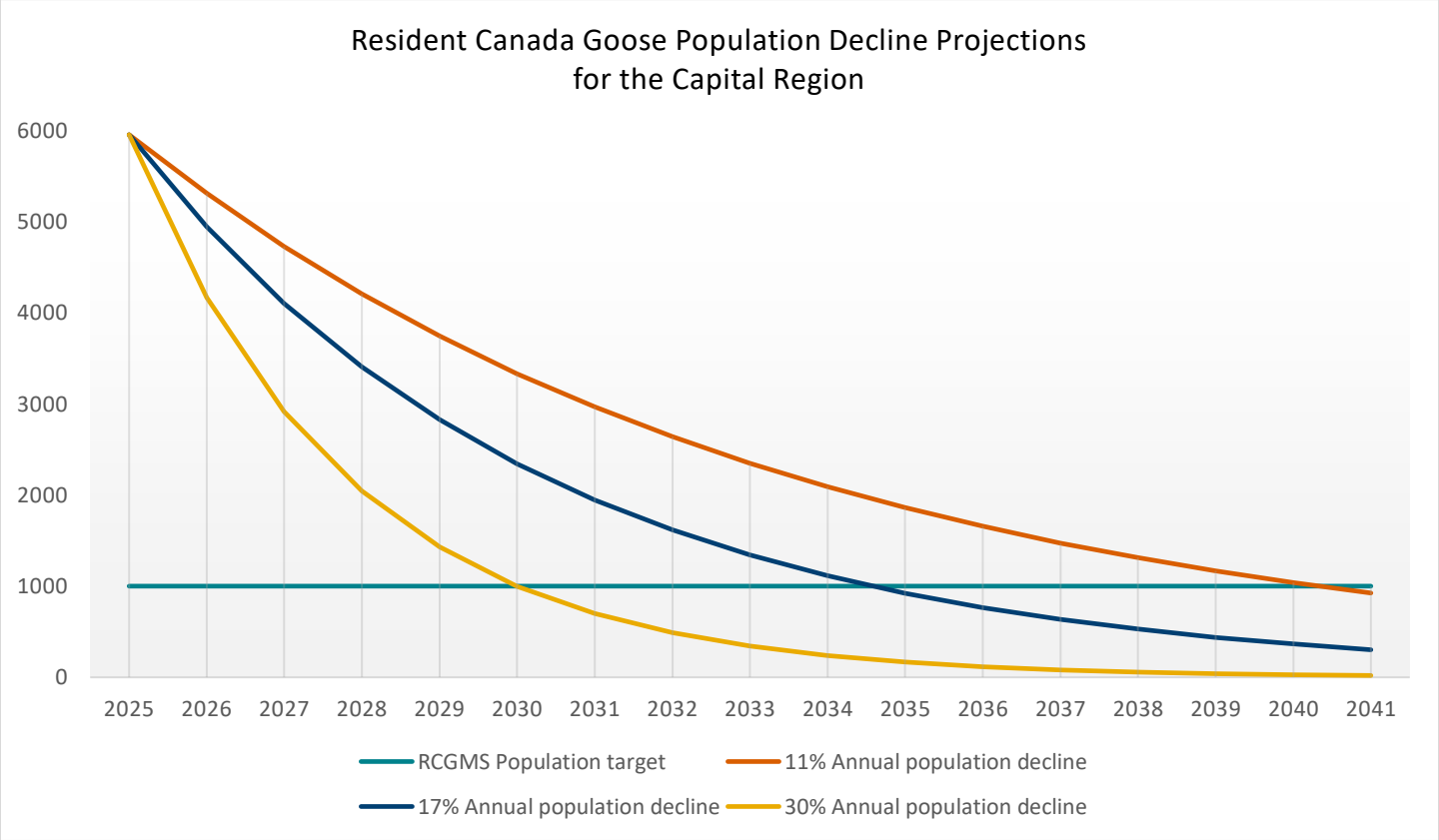

Figure 7. Graph showing possible Canada goose population trends based on annual decline rates of 11%, 17% and 30% annual decline. Initial rate of 11% decline is derived from observed changes between the 2024 and 2025 Regional Canada Goose Moult Surveys. These projections do not account for other population dynamics or ecological factors.

6.0 Recommendations

6.1 Population Survey

- Conduct an annual Regional Canada Goose Moult Survey in the capital region when resources allow.
- Conduct winter surveys to determine the population estimate of overwintering CAGO in the capital region. At minimum, a winter survey that occurs every two years is essential.

- Explore funding opportunities to create a banding program required to study the movements of CAGO throughout the capital region and other jurisdictions.
- Encourage other regions across Vancouver Island to create a banding program, to study movement across Vancouver Island to better apply management strategies.
- Create a communications strategy to promote the use of the GooseWatch and other survey tools, including areas beyond the agricultural community.

6.2 Promote Collaboration

- Continue to develop working relationships with other groups to collaborate on future population surveys.
- Grow relationships with First Nations guardians programs to perform marine surveys and reduce reliance on a CRD boat.
- Work directly with the farming community to gather information on CAGO population numbers, impacts, crop types and movements.
- Develop working relationships with landowners, First Nations, municipal staff, provincial staff, organizations and local governments.

6.3 Increase Mitigation Efforts

- Enable increased mitigation efforts (two harvests/year) for increased reduction techniques to be applied in the capital region. This is necessary to achieve the target population and to reduce the significant economic, environmental and human health-related impacts.
- Explore additional avenues of funding for CAGO mitigation efforts.
- Explore additional opportunities for collaboration between municipalities, electoral districts and outside jurisdictions.

7.0 Conclusion

The 2025 Regional Canada Goose Winter and Moult Surveys were successfully completed with participation from over 17 groups including First Nations, stewardship groups, municipalities and large landowners. The data collected have established baseline CAGO populations that will play a crucial role in shaping future CAGO management decisions in the capital region. Understanding seasonal movements, abundance, and locations helps identify problem areas and improve the effectiveness of management programs, increasing their chances of success. Despite extensive efforts to reduce the overall population, the population surveys have showed an overwintering population estimated around 9,166 and a moulting population of 5,953. A moult survey should occur each year and a winter survey a minimum of every two years to ensure problem areas are being addressed and effective management is occurring across the region. To achieve long-term, meaningful outcomes, it will be essential to allocate additional resources, strengthen collaborative efforts, and implement more robust reduction strategies. Prioritizing these actions will ensure measurable progress and the long-term success of the Regional Canada Goose Management Strategy.

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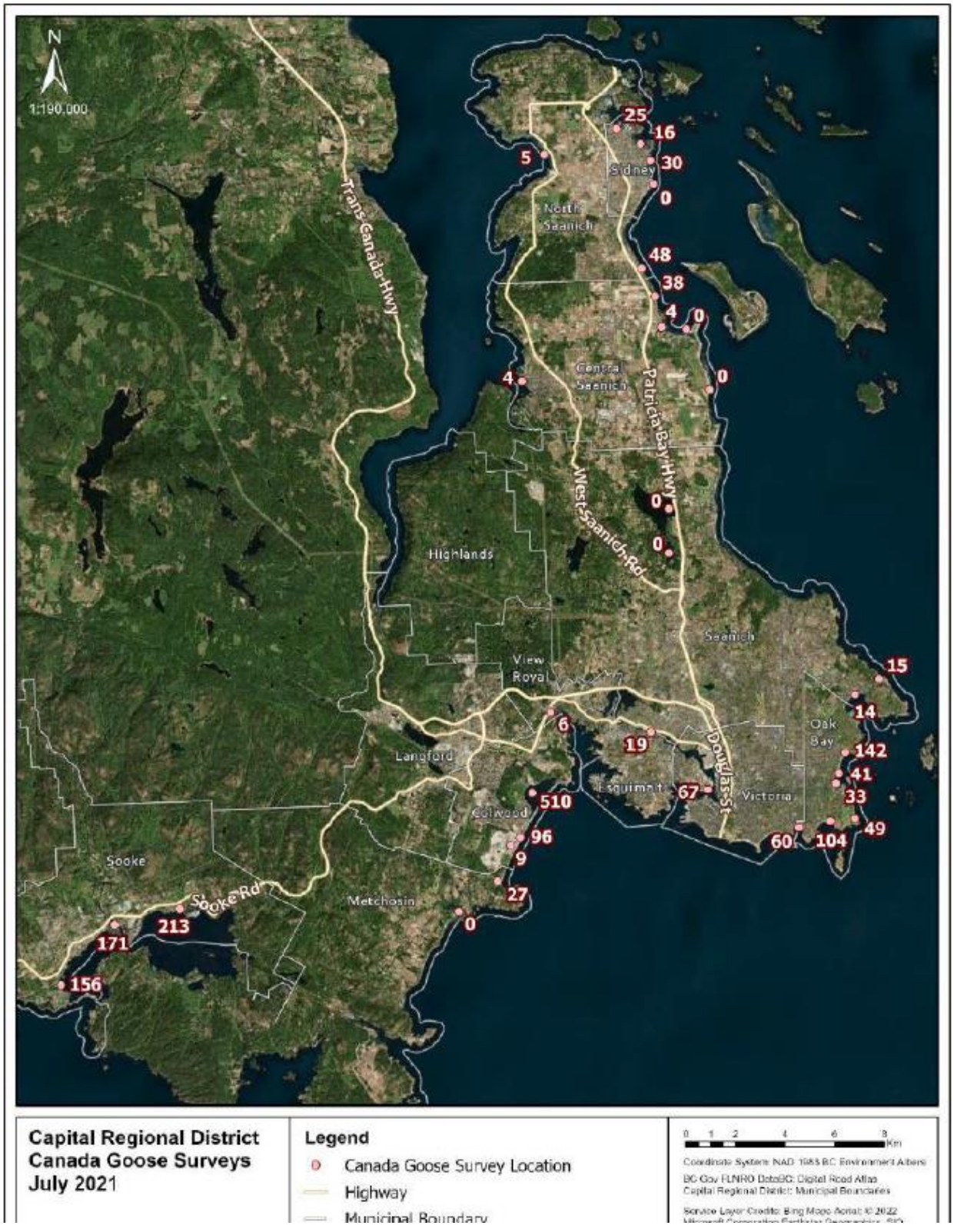
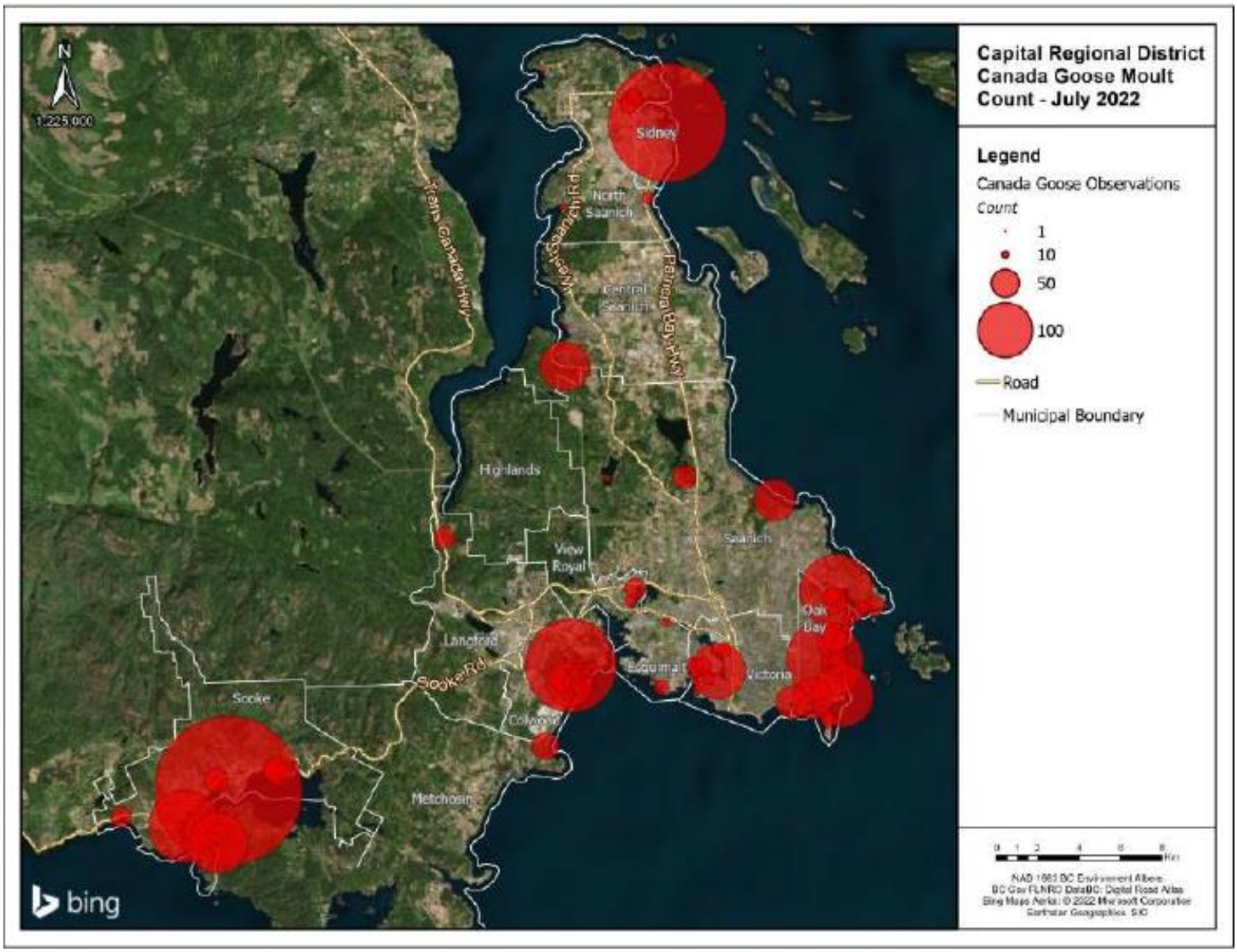
[11] G. o. B. Columbia, "Data Catalogue," 09 11 2024. [Online]. Available: https://catalogue.data.gov.bc.ca/dataset/hunter-sample-survey-estimates-1976-to-current/resource/e3a8de8c-dbc8-498d-8a70-8f578ef548de. [Accessed 22 08 2025].

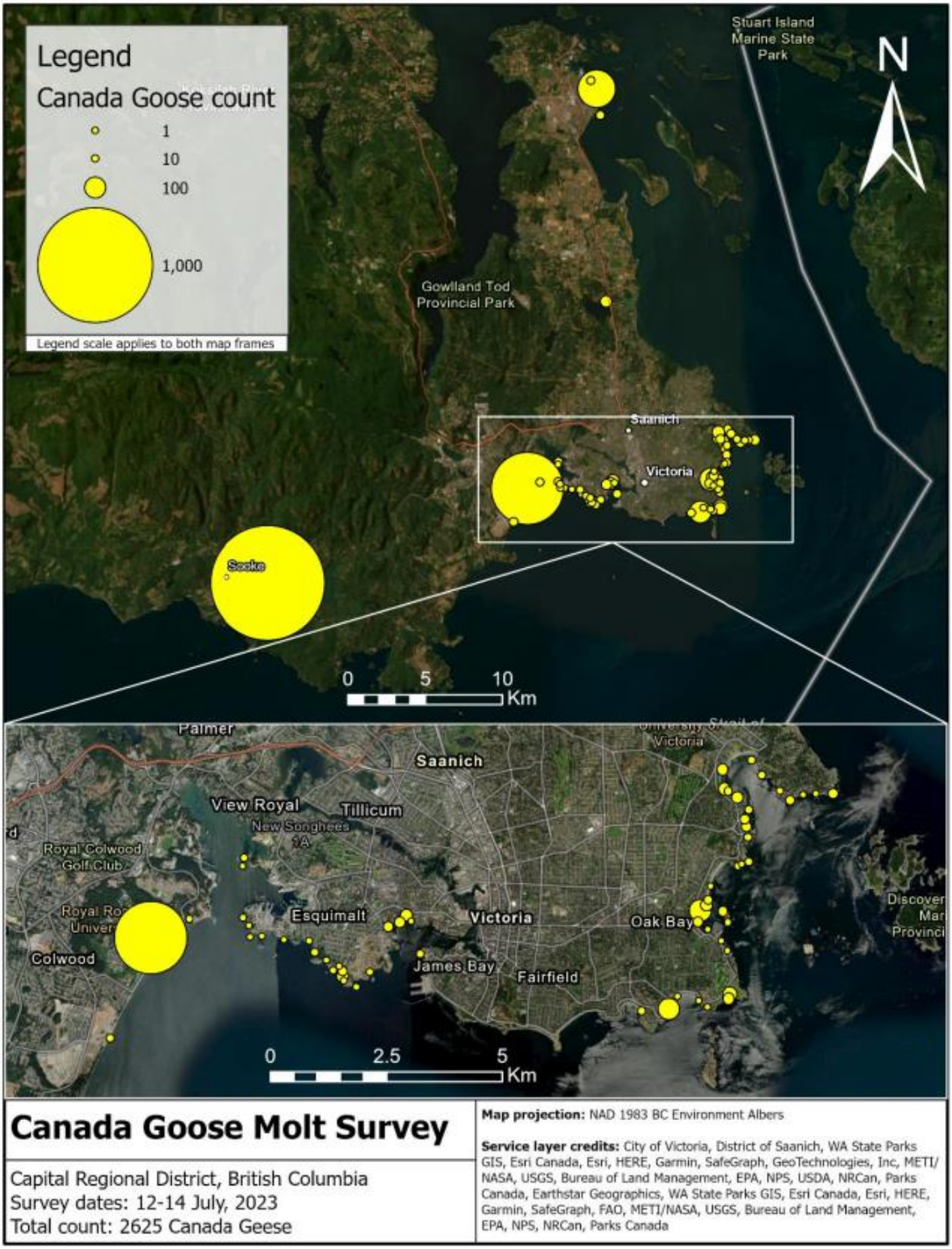
Appendix A - Data from Past Canada Goose Moult Surveys in the Capital Region



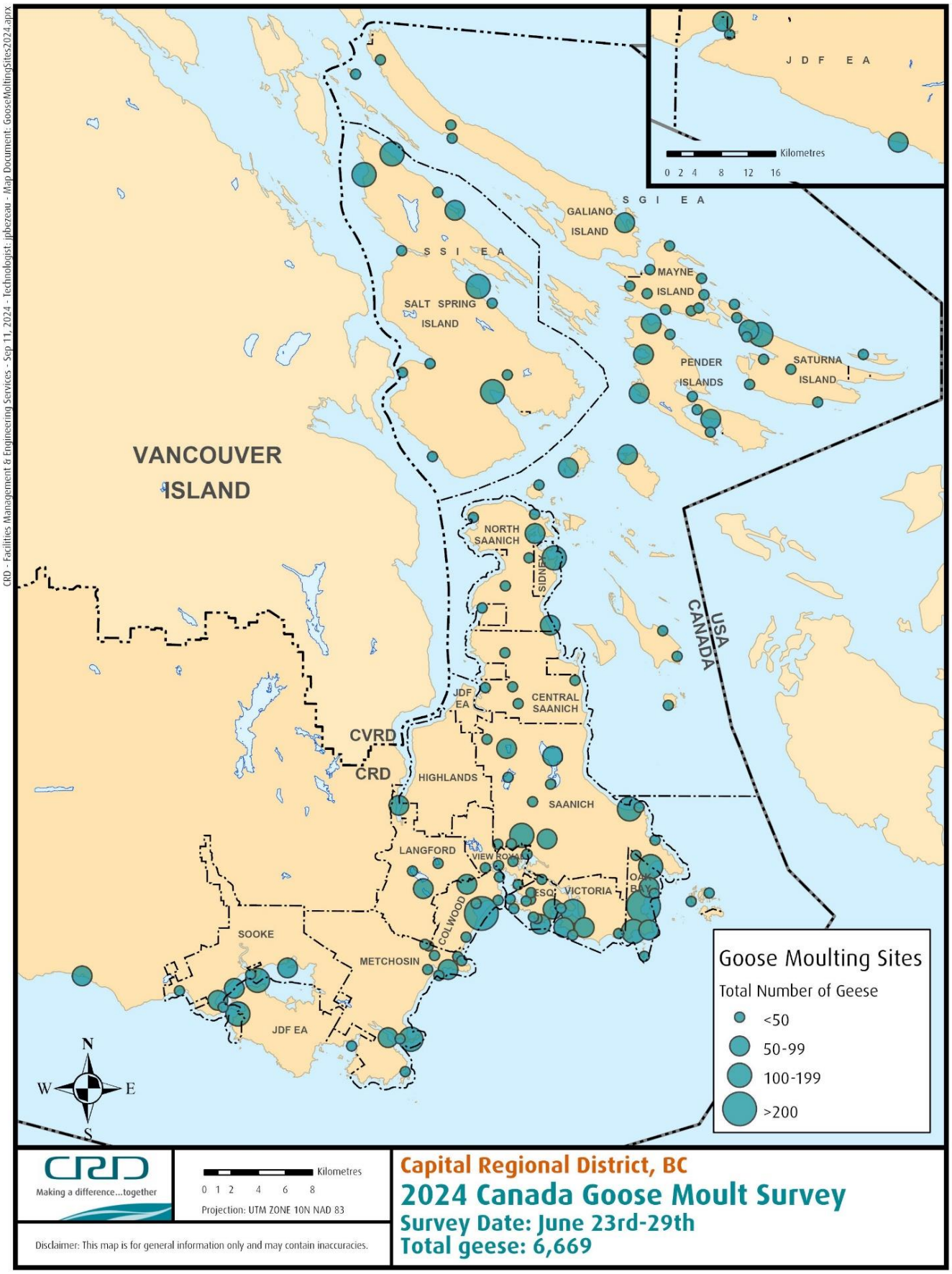
Map 1. 2021 CRD CAGO Moult Survey completed by GooSE. CAGO population totals and survey locations are white numbers outlined in red



Map 2. 2022 CRD CAGO Moult Survey completed by GooSE



Map 3. Map showing the results of the 2023 CRD CAGO moult survey completed by GooSE



Map 4. Results of the 2024 Regional Canada Goose Moult Survey. Western portion of Juan de Fuca Electoral Area shown in upper corner of map.

Appendix B - Hard Copy Data Sheets

Canada Goose Winter Survey Datasheet

CRD 2025

(mandatory information in bold)

Date	**Author(s)**
Weather	

Time	**Location** (Lat/Long or Description)	**Total Geese**	Other goose species*/#'s	Notes

*Only if known, other species may include Cackling, Dusky, or Greater white-fronted

Page:____

Canada Goose Moult Survey Datasheet

CRD 2025

(mandatory information in bold)

Date	**Author(s)**
Weather/Tide Info	

Time	**Location*** (Lat/Long or Description)	**Total Geese**	Adults	Juveniles	Notes

*Preference for Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Page ____

Appendix C - Sample Photo Taken from Drone Survey (February 5, 2025)

Photo 1. Photo taken on February 5, 2025 with DJI M300 RTK drone from Agile Drone Services. Photo shows Canada geese in field.

2025 Canada Goose Egg Addling Report

Regional Canada Goose Management Strategy

Capital Regional District | Environmental Protection

Photo by Katie Lauer

Prepared by:

Regional Canada Goose Management Program

Capital Regional District

625 Fisgard Street, PO Box 1000

Victoria, BC V8W 2S6

September 2025

1.0 Acknowledgements

The Capital Regional District (CRD) conducts its business within the territories of many First Nations, including but not limited to BOḰEĆEN (Pauquachin), MÁLEXEŁ (Malahat), Paaʔčiidʔatx̣ (Pacheedaht), Pune'laxutth' (Penelekut), Sc'ianew (Beecher Bay), Songhees, SȾÁUTW̱ (Tsawout), T'Sou-ke, WJOŁEŁP (Tsartlip), WSIKEM (Tseycum), and xʷsepsəm (Esquimalt), all of whom have a long-standing relationship with the land and waters from time immemorial that continues to this day.

The CRD would like to recognize the continued hard work and dedication of the numerous groups who have contributed to Canada goose management in the capital region including Peninsula Area Agricultural Commission (PAAC), Guardians of our Salish Estuaries (GooSE), First Nations, Parks Canada, Department of National Defense (DND), BC Parks, Victoria International Airport, Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary, William Head Institution and municipal staff. The CRD would also like to acknowledge the contributions made by stewardship groups, Jacques Sirois, Tom Michell, Jody Wells, John Costello and the many individuals who have allowed CRD staff onto their land.

Figure 1. Photo of addling technician Harry Conan addling Canada goose eggs at the Hartland Landfill (photo by Samantha Hammond)

Figure 2. Photo of a Canada goose nest on agricultural land (photo by Samantha Hammond)

2.0 Introduction

Historically, Canada geese (CAGO) found on Vancouver Island were occasional migratory visitors over the autumn and winter months and were very rarely seen nesting. In the 1960's and 70's a CAGO introduction program was implemented by the Canadian Wildlife Service, BC Fish and Wildlife Branch and various other organizations to increase wildlife viewing and hunting opportunities on Vancouver Island. The introduced geese were young birds from various subspecies of Canada geese who were unable to learn migrating behaviour patterns from their parents. Eventually these geese interbred, creating a hybrid population of non-migratory resident geese which are not native to the region.[1][2]

According to Christmas Bird Count data, the current Vancouver Island CAGO population ranges from 16,000-21,000 with an estimated 9,000-11,000 birds overwintering in the capital region[3]. The exponential growth of the regional CAGO population is degrading coastal ecosystems and waterways by over-grazing, trampling vegetation, soil erosion and the spread of invasive species. These areas include endangered Garry Oak ecosystems, near-shore islands in ecological reserves and estuaries that are critical habitats for young salmon[4][5][6]. Increased public health concerns have risen from public and private recreational sites including parks, sports fields, swimming beaches, golf courses and farmlands. These concerns are due to high densities of fecal matter, degradation and contamination of water sources, territorial goose conflicts and spread of disease[7]. Significant economic impacts have occurred with local farmers experiencing financial losses from CAGO damaging crops through grazing and soil erosion, increasing maintenance costs, and contaminating crops and water with their droppings. Poultry farms are also at risk of exposure of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza from CAGO[8]. These impacts have resulted in increased pressure on local governments to take coordinated action.

In 2012, the CRD partnered with municipalities and other stakeholders to develop a Regional Canada Goose Management Strategy (RCGMS) to provide guidance for controlling the adverse impacts that the population of non-migratory, resident CAGO have in the capital region[2]. These management tools include population monitoring, preventing feeding, habitat modification, hazing, egg addling, hunting, harvesting and public outreach. Since its development, numerous actions have been undertaken with hazing strategies becoming the most popular. Unfortunately, without a coordinated approach, geese and their associated impacts have moved into new areas, expanding the nesting and overwintering populations.

In February 2023, the CRD Board approved the Canada Goose Management Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 2022 (Bylaw No. 4522) that aims to reduce the impact of the rapidly growing CAGO population in the capital region. This bylaw was adopted after receiving elector assent through a regional alternative approval process. The RCGMS includes:

- monitoring, mapping and reporting on CAGO populations and their impacts.
- coordinating and establishing collaborative partnerships with municipalities, First Nations, large landowners, Peninsula and Area Agricultural Commission, other government agencies and stewardship groups to implement the CRD's RCGMS.
- development and implementation of a communications strategy and public education program to support the management of CAGO populations.
- collaborating with other Vancouver Island regional districts, local governments, and First Nations to reduce CAGO populations through the Vancouver Island Canada Goose Management Working Group.

The RCGMS identifies egg addling as an effective approach to population reduction. This type of program is crucial for reducing the number of geese recruited into the population each year. Since 2018, the CRD has supported CAGO management actions in the capital region and had contracted an egg addling program with the Guardians of Our Salish Estuaries (GooSE) since 2020. Additionally, other organizations on Southern Vancouver Island have supported CAGO management efforts with their own egg addling programs. For example, BC Parks entered a 10-year agreement in 2022 with GooSE to addle eggs on the ecologically sensitive offshore islets of Oak Bay. The Department of National Defence (DND) has been implementing egg addling and other mitigation measures for over ten years and Parks Canada has been involved in egg addling efforts since 2015. While these efforts have slowed the growth of the resident CAGO population, other methods must be administered to significantly reduce the population.

The CRD initiated an in-house egg addling program in spring 2024 to build capacity and expand egg addling efforts into new areas. This initiative aims to build a comprehensive knowledge base of CAGO nesting behaviour, assist in addling efforts and promote coordination at a regional scale. Insights gained in the first year helped inform this year's efforts and fostered partnerships with landowners, managers, stewardship groups and First Nations. This report outlines the methods and results of the 2025 CRD egg addling field season and discusses limitations and recommendations for enhancing its effectiveness in subsequent years.

3.0 Methods

The egg addling program was initiated to reduce the number of geese recruited into the local population by decreasing egg viability and hatching success. The program ran from March to May 2025.

3.1 Partnership Building and Land Access

- Working group: The Regional Canada Goose Working Group (RCGWG), established in 2024, meets quarterly to coordinate efforts and share information between different stakeholders across the capital region.
- Permit acquisition: A regional permit from Environment & Climate Change Canada's Canadian Wildlife Service (ECCC-CWS) was applied for on January 14, 2025 and received on January 21, 2025. Private property owners could join the permit by signing a land authorization form.
- Landowner outreach: A letter and package were created to inform property owners about the CRD's goose management programs and encourage participation. These materials were mailed to over 1,600 properties within the capital region that were either located in the Agricultural Land Reserve or designated as farms according to BC Assessment Authority data.
- Landowner authorization: Participating landowners signed an authorization letter, adding their property to the CRD's permit and granting CRD technicians' access to their land.
- Ongoing engagement: CRD staff engaged with municipal partners, Songhees Nation, Malahat Nation, W̱SÁNEĆ Leadership Council, land managers and parks staff to determine potential nesting sites. Continuous door-to-door canvassing and information sharing were conducted throughout the program in areas with CAGO nesting.
- Partner relations: Continued work with partners currently providing nest surveys and egg addling mitigation work in the capital region.
    - GooSE continues to work with PAAC, the District of Central Saanich, BC Parks and various other stakeholders to provide egg addling services on farmlands, quarries and ecological reserve islets.

- Parks Canada continues to conduct egg addling activities on park lands with a significant CAGO presence including Fort Rodd Hill and various sections of the Gulf Island National Park Reserve.
- DND continues to provide mitigation measures on their lands and islets around the Esquimalt Harbour.
- Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary conducts its own egg addling program in Saanich.
- William Head Institution conducts their own goose management program on federal lands in Metchosin.
- CRD staff conducted nest identification and survey training for municipal parks staff through the RCGWG. Additional egg addling training was provided in the field to District of Saanich and City of Victoria parks staff.
- Local First Nations were invited to participate in the egg addling program and other goose management activities.

3.2 Nest Surveys and Egg Addling

- Nest surveys: Conducted on foot from March 4 to May 25 on public lands and private properties where CRD had permission to access. Geese were gently removed from nests to allow technicians to addle eggs.
- Sterilization: When a nest with eggs was discovered, the egg addling protocol found below was followed:
  a) Eggs underwent a float test (Figure 3) and were not addled if beyond the development guidelines defined by the American Veterinary Medical Association [9].
  b) If the eggs were at stage 1, they were below the incubation threshold for addling and were coated with vegetable oil to prevent gas exchange. If eggs were between development stages 2 and 4, they were addled by vigorously shaking the egg. If eggs were at stage 5 or 6, no sterilization techniques were administered (Figure 3).
  c) All eggs were then marked with a nest number and placed back into the nest to allow the goose to continue incubation, reducing the likelihood of re-nesting.
  d) All nesting sites were re-visited in two-week intervals to sterilize any newly laid eggs and search for nests laid later in the breeding window.
- Geographic Information System (GIS) tracking: Addling information was entered into a GIS app called FULCRUM. Nest details, location information, visit date(s), and other notes or photos were recorded. Supplemental GIS data was compiled and included areas where no nests were found, locations of missed or inaccessible nests, locations of recently hatched goslings and other relevant information.
- Partner Egg Addling: CAGO management partners (GooSE, DND, Parks Canada and others) conducted nest surveys and egg addling using the same or similar methods and techniques as described above.

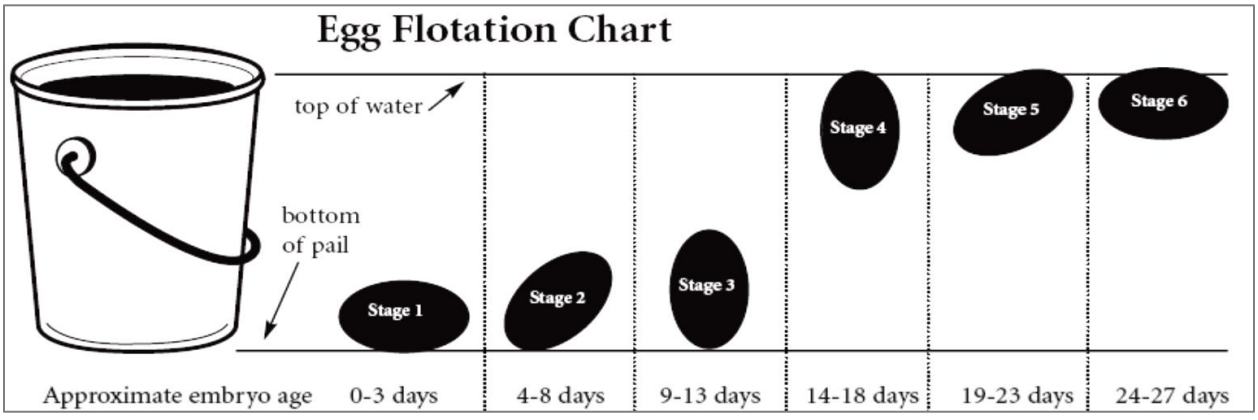


Figure 3. Float test infographic used to determine the age of a Canada goose egg. Image adapted from Iowa Department of Natural Resources [10]

3.3 Gosling Surveys

- Gosling surveys: Additional nest and gosling surveys continued in late May and early June after the CAGO breeding window closed. Missed nests that were identified had GPS data recorded and areas with goslings highlight potential nesting locations to investigate in 2026. A brood is defined as a group of goslings with only its parents in attendance and can help us identify a missed nest. A gang brood is defined as multiple broods amalgamated into one, with two or more parents in attendance and can indicate multiple missed nests [11].
- Online submissions: Additional gosling locations were extracted from a naturalist website called eBird where bird observations are mapped, and a survey tool called GooseWatch created by the CRD to monitor goose populations; both methods rely on data submitted by the public. Digital submissions will continue to assist in the location of new nests in the following years.

Figure 4. Photo of Canada geese with their goslings (age 1-9 days) at Royal Roads University (photo by Samantha Hammond)

4.0 Results

4.1 Land Access Results

In January, CRD staff sent a mailout to the agricultural community and knocked on doors in neighbourhoods with a high goose presence and a likelihood of nesting geese. Over 180 landowners responded with 89 properties granting the CRD access to complete nest surveys, 41 of which were found with active nesting, a 60% increase from last season. Property access expanded in Saanich, Central Saanich, Victoria and the Gulf Islands by over 30% and remained the same or was reduced in the remaining municipalities (Figure 5).

Another 51 landowners agreed to monitor for signs of nesting and report on goose presence, and 10 landowners denied access (Table 1). It was determined that another 37 properties were addled by other groups including DND, Parks Canada, GooSE and private landowners. An additional 76 properties with a likelihood of nesting have been identified as targets for the 2026 egg addling season.

Table 1. 2025 CRD program land access results in the capital region

Site Access Data	2025
Surveyed by the CRD	89
Monitored by landowners	51
Denied access	10
Addled by other groups	37
Potential sites for 2026	76

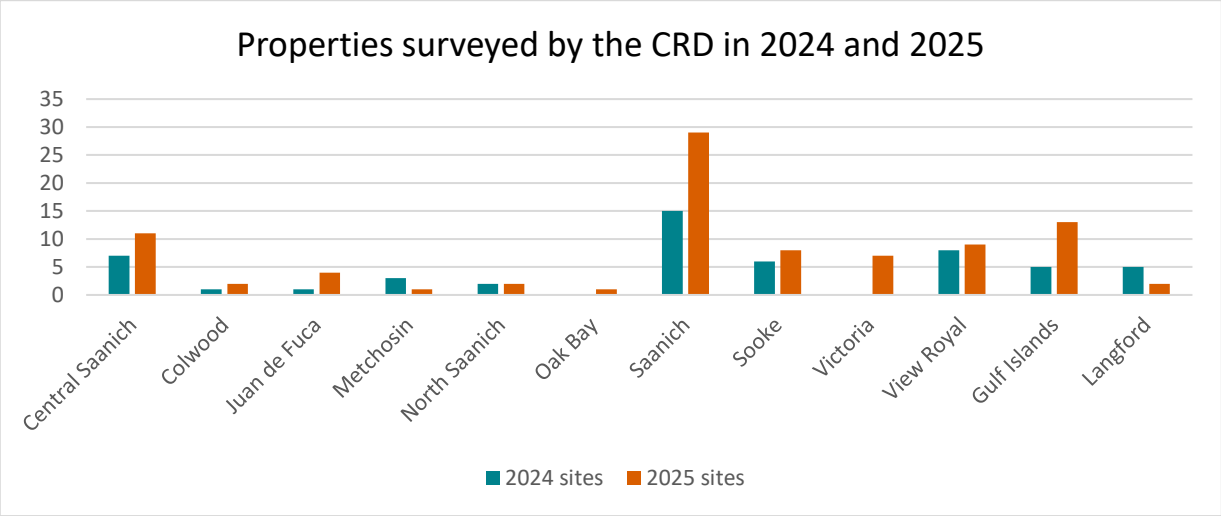


Figure 5. Bar graph comparing the number of properties accessed by the CRD for nest surveys in each municipality (2024 and 2025)

4.2 CRD Egg Addling Results

The CRD egg addling season began on March 1, 2025, with the initial nest survey conducted on March 25, 2025. Surveys covered 89 sites, and a total of 190 nests were discovered with 907 eggs that were either addled, oiled or removed by CRD personnel (Table 2). Of the 190 nests and 907 eggs, 17 nests with 70 eggs were treated in partnership with Parks Canada, seven nests and 37 eggs were treated with municipal parks staff, six nests and 37 eggs were treated with golf course staff and eight nests with 27 eggs were treated in the Greater Victoria Watershed. Nesting activity was recorded at 41 sites distributed across 11 municipalities and electoral districts (Figure 7). Most nests (72%) were located on agricultural lands, while 17% were found in public parks. The remaining 11% were situated on recreational, residential, and industrial properties (Figure 6).

Additional data was collected in the FULCRUM app on nests that were missed, inaccessible or suspected to have experienced predation (Table 3). Missed nests were defined as nests with eggs that failed the float test, were already hatching or had already hatched. Suspected predation nests were identified based on evidence such as scattered shell fragments or broken eggs with no brooding geese present. Common predators of CAGO eggs are raccoons, ravens,

crows, gulls and otters. Incorporating these locations, the total number of identified CAGO nest locations in the region increased to 237. Nests were considered inaccessible if they were located on steep cliffs, in abandoned buildings, or on properties where landowners could not be contacted, making it unsafe for CRD personnel to access them.

Table 2. Total number of CAGO nests, eggs and sites treated in each municipality by CRD technicians in 2025

Region	Nests	Eggs	Sites
Central Saanich	21	98	4
Colwood	19	82	2
Gulf Islands	20	97	7
Juan de Fuca Electoral Area	9	48	2
Metchosin	6	26	1
North Saanich	11	54	2
Oak Bay	1	6	1
Saanich	90	415	16
Sooke	3	15	2
Victoria	6	41	3
View Royal	4	25	1
Totals	190	907	41

Table 3. Number of CAGO nests documented by CRD personnel in the capital region in 2025

Nest Type	Total
Treated	190
Inaccessible	9
Suspected Predation	26
Missed	12
Total Known Nests	237

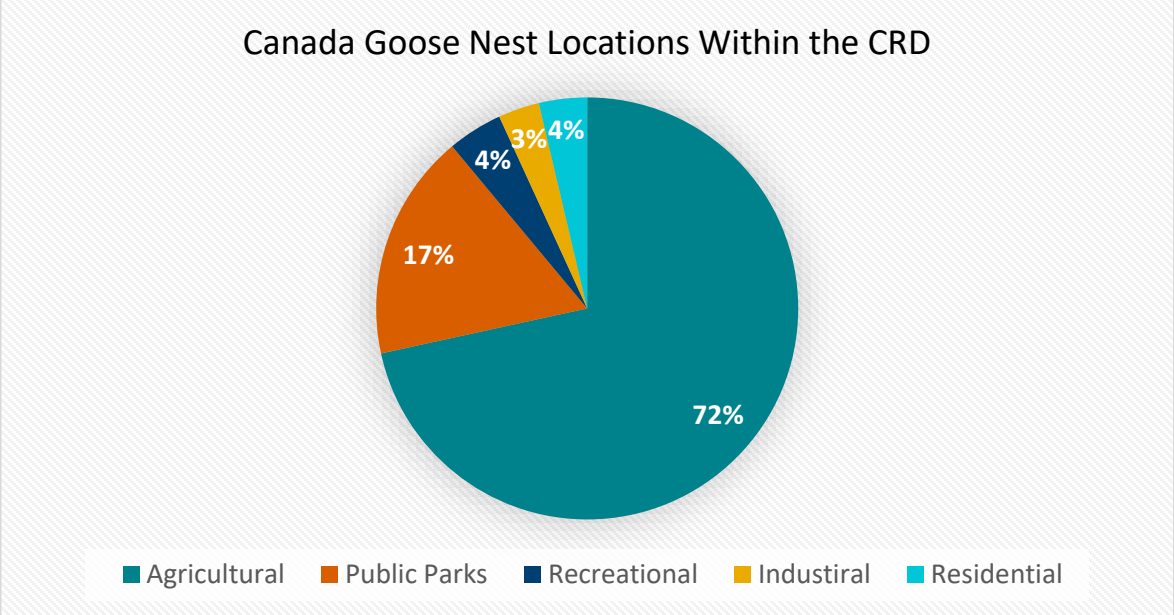


Figure 6. Pie chart comparing the number of nests and eggs found on each property type surveyed for CAGO nests in the capital region during the 2025 season

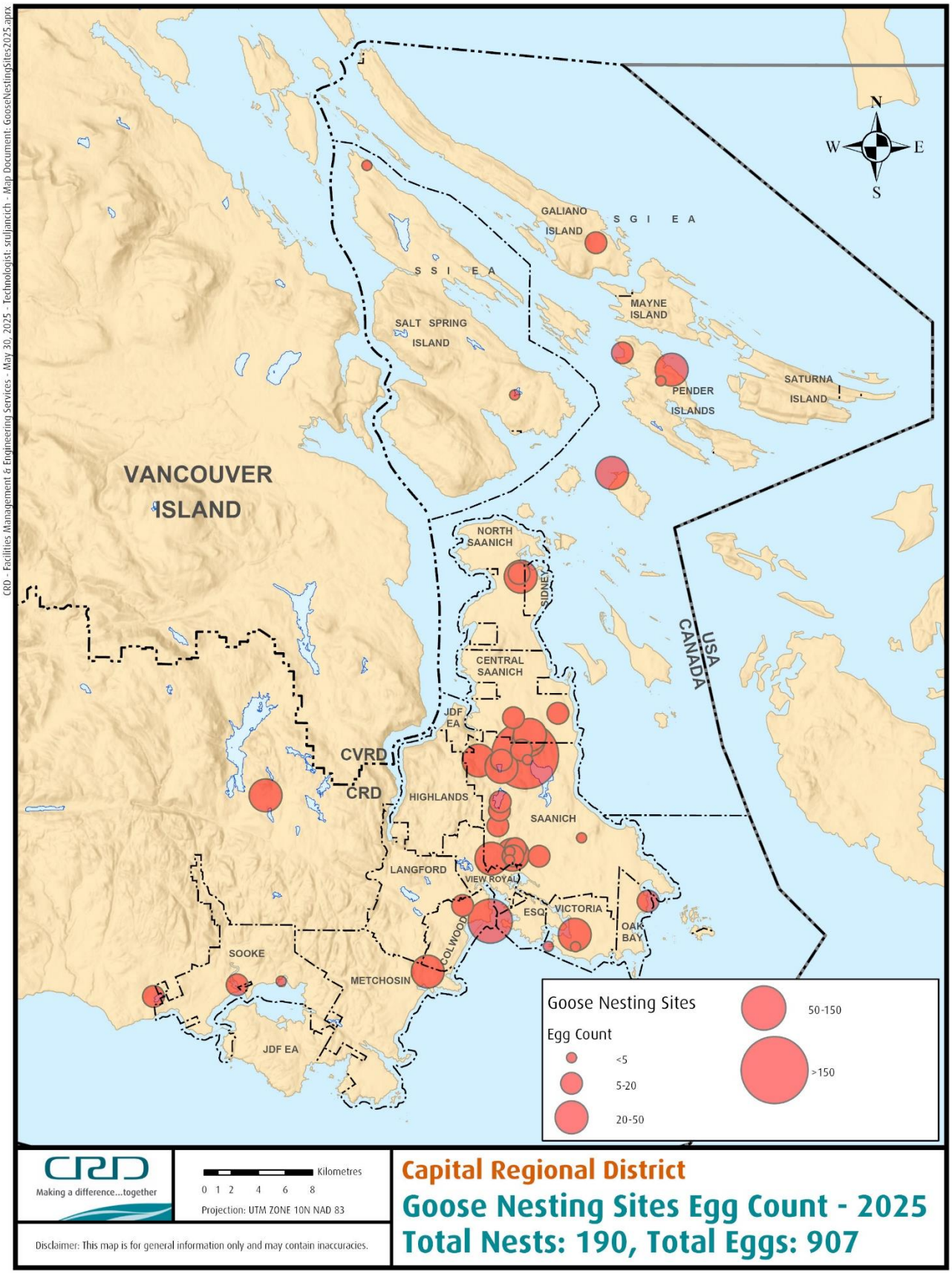


Figure 7. Map depicting the locations of Canada goose eggs treated by CRD technicians during the 2025 CAGO nesting season

4.3 Coordinated Egg Addling Results

Partner organizations such as GooSE, DND, Parks Canada, Swan Lake and the William Head Institution have been actively involved in addling initiatives across southern Vancouver Island for several years. During the 2025 CAGO breeding season, the CRD addled a total of 190 nests with 907 eggs and partner organizations addled a total of 211 nests with 969 eggs; these coordinated efforts led to 401 nests and 1,876 eggs being treated in the capital region (Table 4). Since 2022, addling activities have effectively prevented approximately 7,260 CAGO eggs from successfully hatching. The annual survival rate for urban goslings is estimated to be 77%, compared to an estimated 59% for those in rural environments [12]. Given that the majority of CAGO nests were found on agricultural lands considered rural, it is estimated that regional addling efforts have prevented the recruitment of approximately 4,280 CAGO into the local population. This number increases significantly if future growth from the prevented population is considered. The initiation of the CRD egg addling program and coordination with partnering organizations has substantially increased the success of the addling programs within the capital region.

Table 4. Total number of known CAGO nests and eggs treated in the capital region from 2022-2025

	2022		2023		2024		2025	
Partner	Nests	Eggs	Nests	Eggs	Nests	Eggs	Nests	Eggs
CRD	9	33	8	30	157	696	190	907
Guardians of our Salish Estuaries	236	1,162	207	1,019	201	1,037	110	584
Department of National Defense	58	239	54	206	38	148	50	144
Parks Canada	38	156	63	261	28	97	28	145
Other	21	108	19	104	13	87	23	96
Totals	**362**	**1,698**	**351**	**1,620**	**437**	**2,065**	**401**	**1,876**

4.4 Gosling Survey Results

Gosling surveys help staff determine areas where nests have been missed and uncover additional breeding locations for future egg addling programs. In 2025, goslings from untreated nests began hatching in late April, only individuals at the growth stage 1 with an age of 1-9 days were documented. Goslings leave the nest within 1-2 days; therefore, this growth stage is the most likely to still be close to the original nesting location.

CRD staff conducted gosling surveys over 29 days from April 22 to June 25, 2025. Data collection included direct field observations as well as public submissions via eBird and GooseWatch. These efforts documented 542 goslings from approximately 111 broods (Table 5). As eBird submissions did not include brood counts or sizes, the number of missed nests is estimated based on the number of adults in the immediate area and apparent family groupings. Confirmed sightings were compiled into a spatial data layer within the FULCRUM app to support the identification of potential nesting sites in future seasons (Figure 8). High numbers of goslings indicate areas where more focused nest search efforts are required. Burnside Road West, Portage Inlet, Tsehum Harbour and Pender Island have all been identified as breeding spots requiring additional addling efforts in the 2026 season.

Table 5. Total number of goslings and family groups documented during recruitment surveys in the capital region 2025

Municipality	Goslings	Adult Geese	Family Groups
Central Saanich	42	14	7
Colwood	10	4	2
Gulf Islands	99	86	20
Langford	3	2	1
Metchosin	53	29	10
North Saanich	56	16	10
Oak Bay	13	6	3
Sooke	9	5	2
Saanich	177	72	40
Victoria	29	12	6
View Royal	51	10	10
Totals	542	256	111

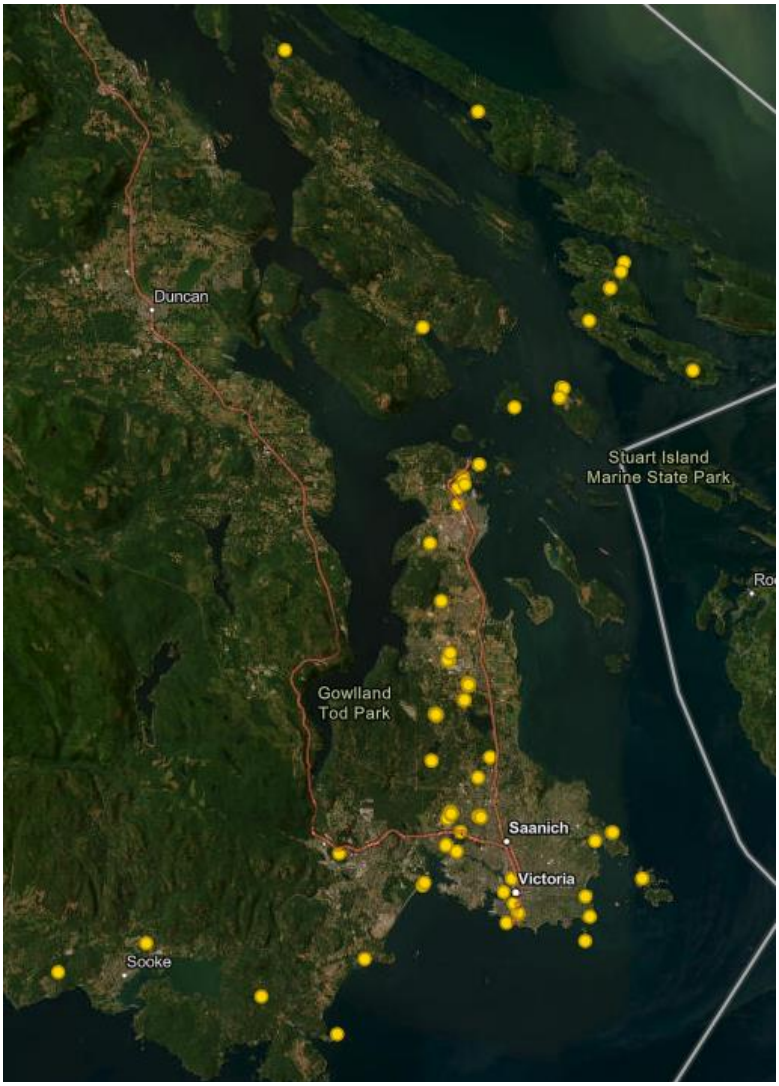


Figure 8. Map of CAGO gosling surveys conducted in the capital region from April-June 2025

5.0 Discussion

In its second year, the coordinated region-wide CAGO egg addling program focused on maintaining and building relationships, securing permission and access to private and public properties, and expanding the CRD egg addling program into new areas.

A key recommendation from the 2024 egg addling report identified a need to streamline permitting and administrative processes for municipalities, farmers and other landowners to make participation in the egg addling program easier. Following discussions with the Regional Canada Goose Working Group (RCGWG) members, park use permits (typically required for work in municipal parks) were removed for CRD staff to complete nest surveys. This change significantly alleviated the administrative burden for both CRD and municipal personnel. The CRD received a regional damage or danger permit from ECCC-CWS that allows landowners to join by signing a land authorization form. Given the scale of the CRD egg addling program, obtaining a land authorization form from each landowner creates additional work for them and can be time consuming. Consultations with a representative from the ECCC-CWS began in early February, and as a result, landowners can now authorize CRD staff to access their properties for up to three years. This eliminates the need for annual reauthorization and reduces administrative tasks.

The regional CAGO egg addling program hired a goose management technician to start earlier this year, on March 1, 2025. This allowed for continued relationship building with landowners and stakeholders, pre-season planning, scheduling site visits, and conducting outreach in areas with dense CAGO populations. This also enabled CRD staff to follow up on leads developed from the 2024 GIS mapping and gosling surveys and incorporate pre-nesting scouting of mated pairs. A new cooling and freezing method for egg sterilization was introduced. In this approach, CAGO eggs are collected and stored in a freezer at the CRD lab to create an inventory. Freezing effectively halts embryonic development making the eggs non-viable. These eggs can later be used as a replacement in active nests, reducing the amount of time CRD technicians spend at each nest creating a safer environment in risky areas and minimizing the stress for nearby observers. This method improved operational flexibility, increased comfort among participating municipalities and facilitated collaboration with building managers, allowing CRD staff to assist with rooftop nest management in locations with high public visibility.

The program expanded into several high-priority areas identified in 2024, including the Gulf Islands, Saanich, Central Saanich and Victoria. On the gulf islands, the number of properties with access went from five to 13 and incorporated Salt Spring Island and Pender Island. In Saanich, the number of participating properties increased from 15 to 29, with active nests found on 16 sites, particularly concentrated around Hastings Flats and Oldfield Road. Numerous new sites in Victoria and Central Saanich joined the program. However, no nests were located along the Songhees Walkway despite frequent sightings of gosling broods. This suggests that nesting may be occurring on small, unnamed islets within Victoria Harbour. Work should be completed to obtain access to these areas prior to the 2026 breeding season. Municipal parks staff in Saanich and Victoria received nest survey and egg addling training and should be able to conduct independent addling under the CRD permit in future seasons. Additionally, participating golf course staff were trained and are expected to manage addling activities independently next year. This will support long-term program sustainability and allow CRD staff to continue expanding into new locations.

A key management partner, GooSE, surveyed a similar number of properties in 2025 but reported a 44% reduction in the total number of nests and eggs treated relative to the 2024 egg addling season. The CRD addling program in collaboration with Parks Canada observed a 52% decrease in the number of eggs treated at the Fort Rodd Hill National Historic Site. These reductions are encouraging and are likely a result of the 2024 First Nations led harvest that occurred in Esquimalt lagoon. As CAGO mitigation efforts are implemented over multiple years at specific locations, a corresponding decline in the number of eggs found at those sites is anticipated. However, as the CRD egg addling program continues expanding into new areas, the overall number of eggs may initially increase locally before beginning to decline as long-term management efforts take effect.

Overall, the second year of the coordinated regional egg addling program was successful. An additional 907 eggs from 190 nests were treated by CRD staff, representing a 23% increase from the 2024 season. Combining this data with that from our partner organizations, who addled a total of 211 nests containing 969 eggs, brings the known regional total to 1,876 eggs for 2025. Data collected by the CRD and all other participating groups from 2022 onwards indicates that at least 7,260 CAGO eggs have been prevented from hatching, meaning approximately 4,280 CAGO were not recruited into the local population. However, the 2025 regional gosling survey estimated at least 111 missed nests, a number that is likely much higher. Continued effort to strengthen relationships, increase program resources and expand egg addling coverage are essential to ensuring the long-term success of the program.

6.0 Recommendations

The coordinated regional CAGO egg addling program had a successful second season. The program could be further improved to increase success in the following ways:

6.1 Increase Public Awareness and Participation in Reporting Nests

- Execute a public awareness campaign that includes media releases, social media content and mailouts. This strategy should aim to increase public awareness of CAGO impacts and the reason mitigation techniques are needed.
- Expand the Regional Canada goose management mailout package to include properties outside of the agricultural community that have a high likelihood of nesting geese to encourage landowners to participate in the egg addling program.

6.2 Promote Collaboration

- Offer training by CRD staff to interested parties to get more participants involved. Focus on engaging with First Nations guardian programs.
- Continue to develop working relationships with other groups to understand how to best assist with current addling activities in the capital region.
- Work directly with the farming community and farming groups to obtain access to more properties with active CAGO nesting, particular focus on expansion in the Gulf Islands.
- Encourage trained parties to complete nest surveys and egg addling in their managed areas under the CRD regional egg addling permit and contribute data to the regional program.

6.3 Increase Egg Addling Budget

- Increase funds for auxiliary hours and support to include pre-season planning, scheduling and scouting for mated pairs to uncover new nesting areas.
- Increase the goose management budget to include extra hours for the Goose Management Coordinator to participate in the egg addling field season.
- Increase funds to include additional personnel including First Nations guardians to assist in the expansion of the egg addling program.

6.4 Additional Operational Considerations

- Obtain drone equipment and training to conduct comprehensive nest surveys over flooded, marshy terrain. These areas are difficult to access on foot and are often densely vegetated making the use of boats impractical, leading to missed nests.
- Apply for a Crown Land Use application to conduct nest surveys and egg addling on small unnamed islets off the coast of Victoria, Sidney and Metchosin through Frontcounter BC.
- Maintain a stockpile of frozen CAGO eggs for use in the 2026 egg addling season.
- Obtain fall protection training and equipment to assist building managers with nest surveys and egg addling in urban areas on rooftops.

7.0 Conclusion

The second year of the coordinated egg addling program has shown highly successful results and has demonstrated the potential for continued growth as participation from local groups and First Nations increases. A collective total of 1,876 eggs addled from 401 nests have prevented the recruitment of approximately 1,106 CAGO into the local population. Since 2022, the CRD and partners have collectively addled 7,259 CAGO eggs, preventing an estimated 4,282 young geese from joining the local population. The service is effectively slowing CAGO population growth, achieving goals of the strategy and strengthening relationships. However, additional resources are required to support increased mitigation efforts aimed at achieving significant population reductions over a short time frame ensuring the success of the program is maintained for the long-term.

Figure 9. Photo of a Canada goose nest (photo by Katie Lauer)

7.0 References

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Regional Canada Goose Management Program

February 18, 2026

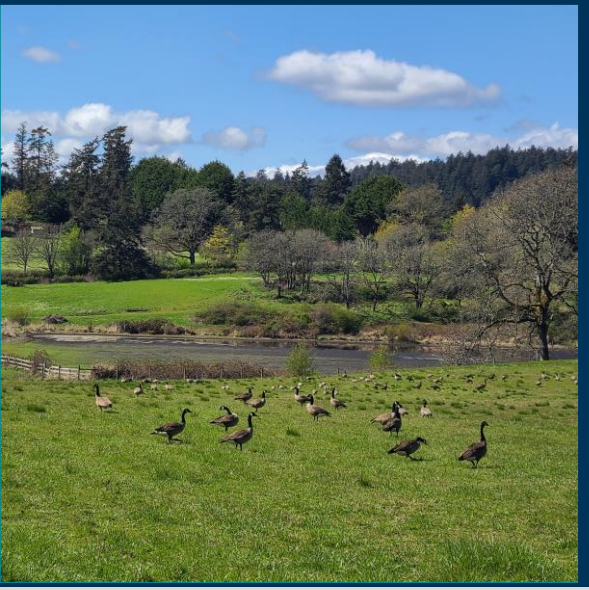
Environmental Services Committeee

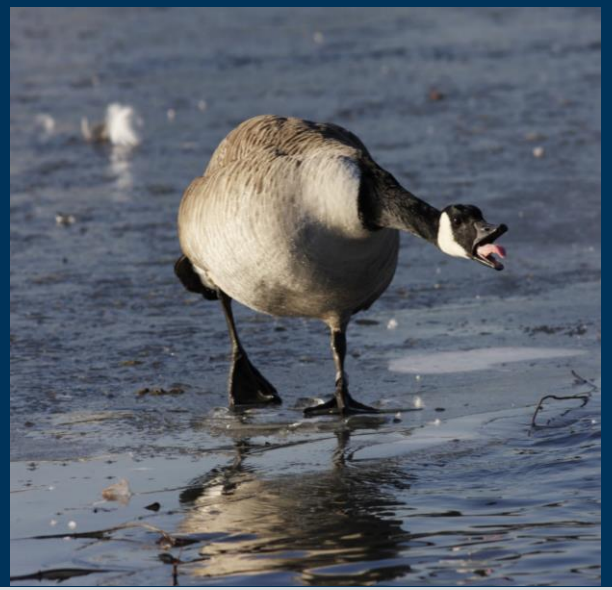
Regional Canada Goose Management Service

Bylaw No. 4522

The service aims to reduce the impacts of non-migratory resident Canada goose populations on the region's environment, economy and health.

- Establish collaborative partnerships
- Reduce Canada goose populations and their impacts
- Share knowledge and engage support
- Monitor, report and evaluate



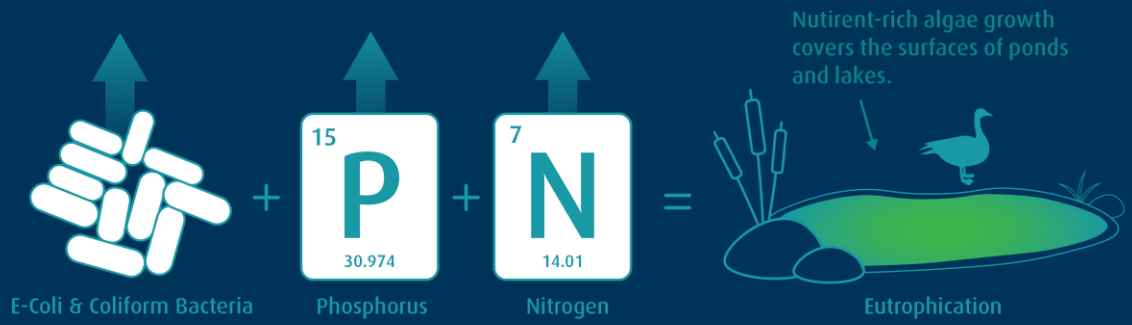


Environmental, Social & Economic Impacts

- Historically, Canada geese were only occasional migratory visitors
- Introduction programs in the 60's and 70's for hunting
- Led to large and established non-migratory resident Canada goose population.

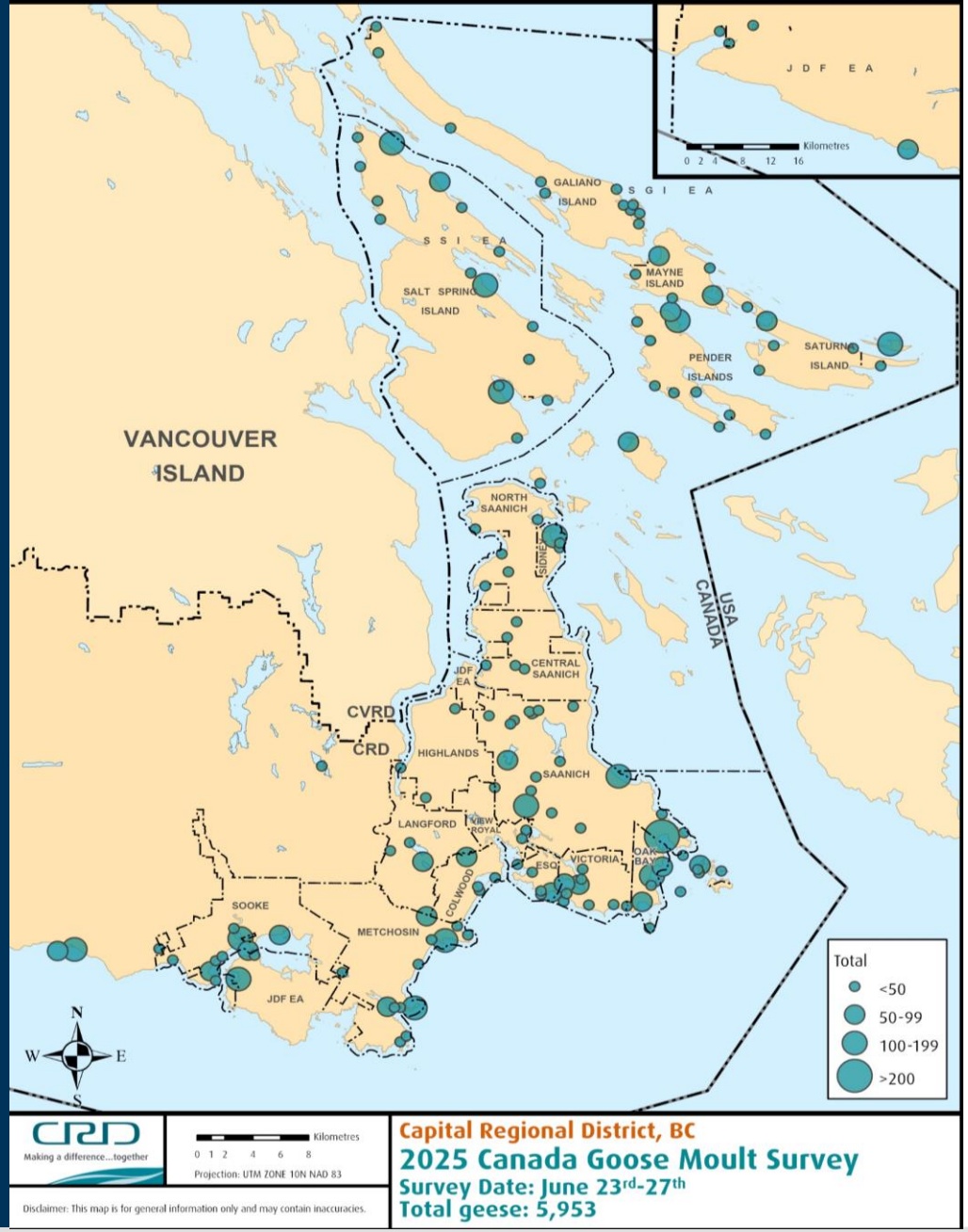
Overpopulation of geese are impacting:

- Estuaries & Tidal Marshes
- Endangered Ecosystems
- Water Contamination
- Farming & Recreation



Survey Results

11% reduction in resident population from 2024 to 2025



Moult Survey

Region - Moult	Adult	Juvenile	Total
Central Saanich	59	43	102
Colwood	104	26	130
Esquimalt	167	65	232
Gulf Islands	1,531	225	1,756
Highlands	20	12	32
Juan de Fuca	356	35	416
Langford	135	35	170
Metchosin	453	47	500
North Saanich	80	31	111
Oak Bay	363	169	759
Saanich	364	276	606
Sidney	198	10	208
Sooke	628	79	707
Victoria	112	102	214
View Royal	10	0	10
Totals	**4580**	**1155**	**5953**

Winter Survey

- 9,700 resident and migratory geese
- SSI, Esquimalt not surveyed
- Winter population likely 10-15% higher

Mitigation Results

Regional Egg Addling Results

	2024		2025	
Partner	Nests	Eggs	Nests	Eggs
CRD	157	696	190	907
GooSE	201	1,037	110	584
DND	38	148	50	144
PC	28	97	28	145
Other	13	87	23	96
Totals	**437**	**2,065**	**401**	**1,876**

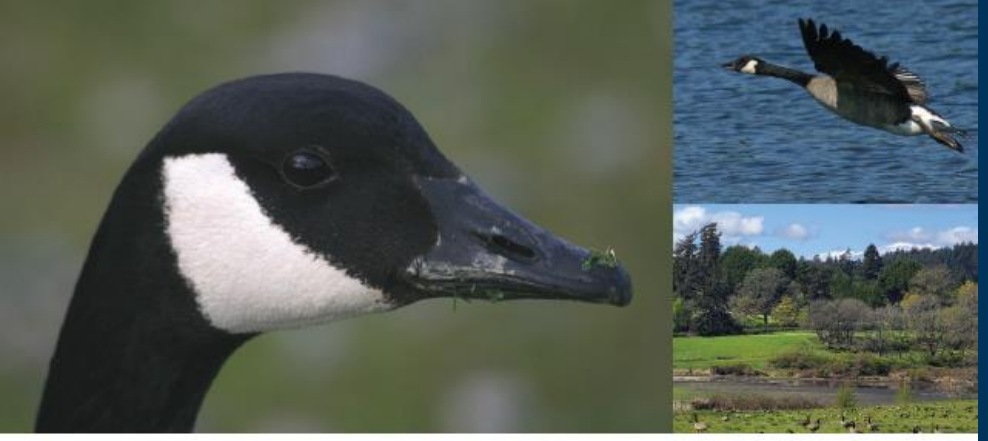
Crop Protection Permits & Hunting*

- 2021: 212 w/ permits & 174 hunted
- 2022: 258 w/ permits & 314 hunted
- 2023: 164 w/ permits & 483 hunted
- 2024: 200 w/ permits & 425 hunted

Harvests with First Nations

- **2024**: 465 Canada geese removed from Colwood.
- **2025**: 738 Canada geese removed from Oak Bay and Central Saanich
- **Total:** 1,203 removed since CRD goose service establishment

- In 2024 at least **2,770** geese prevented from hatching or removed from the population.
- In 2025, **2,614** geese prevented from hatching or removed from the population so far.



Help Track Canada Geese with Goose Watch!

Do you see Canada geese in your neighbourhood or grazing in your fields? Join Goose Watch and contribute to tracking the seasonal movements and patterns of our local Canada goose population.

Population surveys are an important component of the CRD's Regional Canada Goose Management Strategy. The collected data will play a crucial role in shaping future wildlife management decisions in the region.

IT'S EASY TO PARTICIPATE

Download form at:
arcg.is/rbC110

or quickly scan the QR code to visit the online form.

SAVE THE LINK

Once you visit the form link, add it to your laptop or phone homepage to keep using.

You can put in observations every day or even multiple times a day if you come across new sightings.

Learn More

To learn more visit www.crd.ca/goose, email goose@crd.bc.ca or call 250.360.3196.

CRD
Making a difference...together

2025 Accomplishments

- Obtained regional danger and damage permit and expanded egg addling program by 20%
- Two goose harvests instead of one
- Engaged 4 First Nations in program
- Hosted 4 Regional Canada Goose Management Working Group meetings and increased agricultural participation
- Launched Goose Watch app – public observations of geese to determine seasonal movement and inform mitigation work
- Developed Social Media outreach materials
- Mailout to 1,600 agricultural properties
- Increase private property access by 30% over 2024 (97 properties allow CRD staff to access)

2026 Regional Goose Service Priorities

Communications: Mailout to all agricultural properties with information about the CRD's goose mitigation and monitoring programs, increase social media presence.

Egg Addling: Planning phase begins in January; outreach for collaboration, land authorizations, survey locations, auxiliary hire. Expand on Salt Spring and Pender Island's.

Population Surveys: Complete a region wide-moult survey and expand Goose Watch participation.

Harvests: Negotiating a contract for two harvests, at least 4 First Nations participating. Increase education around crop protection & migratory game bird hunting.

Questions?

Thank you!

Connect with us:

Goose Management Coordinator goose@crd.bc.ca

Website for more information: www.crd.bc.ca/goose

Capital Regional District

CRDVictoria

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Making a difference...together

EEP 26-06

REPORT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2026

SUBJECT **Regional Invasive Species Program Update**

ISSUE SUMMARY

To inform the Committee of the accomplishments of the Regional Invasive Species Program and provide the updated 2025 capital region Invasive Species list.

BACKGROUND

Since October 2017, the Capital Regional District (CRD) has supported coordination of regional invasive species management. Originally enabled through the Climate Action Service Establishing Bylaw, the service was expanded in 2025 to cover the entire region when the CRD Board established the new regional Biodiversity and Environmental Stewardship Service.

The CRD's Regional Invasive Species Program (RISP) brings together local governments, First Nations and other land managers with an interest in, or management responsibilities for, invasive species within the capital region, to pursue a coordinated and collaborative approach to invasive species management and education. The program focuses on collaboration, capacity building, staff training, education, outreach, Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR), disposal, inventory, mapping, restoration and research. The main focus of the program is plant species, but there are several animal species (e.g., European green crab, American Bullfrog) that are also impacting regional ecosystems. CRD staff work closely with the Ministry of Forests Invasive Plant Program and the Invasive Species Council of BC.

Coordinated and chaired by CRD staff, the Capital Region Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP) is made up of local government and First Nations staff, and other land managers, provides support and advice to the program. Attached Appendix A provides a summary of program accomplishments from 2020-2025.

The Capital Region Invasive Plant list (Appendix B) identifies species of concern in the region and is an essential tool of the local EDRR program; a proactive, province-wide approach to managing new invasive species that strives to prevent the establishment and subsequent impacts through targeted risk assessment, verification, containment, and eradication. This regional list helps land managers prioritize management of existing invasive plants and supports awareness of new invasive plants that may show up in the region. This list was updated in 2025 in collaboration with CRISP members, provincial staff and invasive plant experts and includes a total of 152 species with 58 new invasive plants added since the 2019 update.

IMPLICATIONS

Environmental, Climate and Social Implications

The program has achieved many successes from 2020-2025 through collaboration, capacity building and staff training, education and outreach, EDRR, disposal, inventory and mapping, and restoration and research. In 2025, as part of a regional EDRR program, staff, in collaboration with

the inter-municipal working group and provincial and local invasive plant experts, updated the Capital Region Invasive Species list, which classifies invasive plants for our region into four categories: prevent, eradicate, contain, and strategic control (Appendix B). With adjusted climate projections, an increasing number of species are deemed possible invasives in the capital region. The team used the precautionary approach to include species that are found in neighbouring jurisdictions and are those that are noted on provincial listings that have climate suitability in our region.

Financial Implications

The invasive species program receives its mandate through Bylaw No. 4575 Biodiversity and Environmental Stewardship Coordination established in 2025. The service has a budget (CRD Reference # 1.315) in 2026 of $229,780 and is supported by a 0.5 full-time equivalent position that reports through the Environmental Protection Division of the Parks, Recreation, and Environmental Services Department.

Intergovernmental Implications

The current provincial invasive species regulatory framework is outdated and does not provide the information, guidance, and tools necessary for land managers, including local and regional governments, to effectively manage local impacts and concerns. For example, many known invasive plants are still available for sale online or at nurseries throughout the region and across BC; putting more onus and economic pressure on local governments to manage invasive plants in their jurisdiction without the ability to eliminate or ban an obvious source of introduced species.

Program staff engage often with landowners, industry and land managers about invasive species and are frequently asked about legislation that could help to regulate these plants. The network of jurisdictions responsible for managing invasive species is confusing and often multiple agencies and governments are involved in controlling invasive plants on adjoining land parcels. Furthermore, there are numerous outdated pieces of legislation, regulation and policy that govern invasive plant management in BC. The lack of a consolidated and comprehensive invasive species legislation, coupled with limited funds and staff capacity, remains an ongoing challenge for land managers.

The Invasive Species Strategy for BC, a strategic framework for improved invasive species management developed by the Invasive Species Council of BC, identifies “a single piece of co-developed invasive species legislation for British Columbia” as a key goal to achieve effective invasive species management.

Stakeholders in the various collaboration groups support an update to the existing framework and staff will bring a report to the April 2026 Environmental Services Committee meeting which will ask the CRD Board to write an advocacy letter in support of legislative changes.

Economic Implications

Invasive species represent a significant environmental and economic risk to local ecosystems. They have the potential to overwhelm healthy watersheds and ecosystems, displace native species, negatively impact regional and municipal parks, disrupt infrastructure, and impact service delivery. Climate change will likely accelerate these risks over the coming decades. The Invasive Species Council of BC is currently undertaking an economic impact study, which will attempt to quantify the financial implications of the invasive species to the provincial economy.

CONCLUSION

Invasive species are one of the top stressors that impact the natural environment and biodiversity due to their ability to establish quickly and spread rapidly, often displacing native plants and animals to become the dominant species in the area. Over the past five years, the Regional Invasive Species Program has demonstrated success through collaboration, capacity building and staff training, education and outreach, Early Detection Rapid Response, disposal, inventory and mapping, and restoration and research. However, local government efforts at controlling invasive species spread are hampered when many invasive plants remain available for sale, and with outdated and antiquated provincial legislation and regulation. Advocating to the Province to replace the outdated Weed Control Act with a comprehensive Invasive Species Act for BC, which includes preventing their sale, trade, barter, gifting and transport, is necessary. A staff report recommending advocacy to the Province in support of updated invasive species legislation is planned for the April 2026 Environmental Services Committee meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.

Submitted by:	Glenn Harris, Ph.D., R.P.Bio., Senior Manager, Environmental Protection
Concurrence:	Luisa Jones, MBA, General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Environmental Services
Concurrence:	Ted Robbins, B. Sc., C. Tech., Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A: 2020-2025 Program Accomplishments
Appendix B: High Priority Invasive Plants in the Capital Region
Presentation: Update on the Regional Invasive Species Program

Regional Invasive Species Program

Making a difference...together

2020-2025 Program Accomplishments

Capital Regional District | Environmental Protection

This report provides a summary by priority focus area of the Regional Invasive Species Program's collaborative efforts and accomplishments in 2020-2025. For more information about the program and to view all outreach material see www.crd.bc.ca/invasive.

Collaboration & Capacity Building

- **Coordinated the Capital Region Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP):** This intergovernmental working group meets bi-monthly and advises and supports the program. Current membership is approximately 60 representatives from 25 different government agencies and First Nations, with interest in, or management responsibilities for invasive species within the capital region. In addition, there are 11 partner agencies involved including Gulf Island Conservancies, Habitat Acquisition Trust, PEPÁ**K**E**N** HÁUTW Foundation, Royal BC Museum, Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary, and the Victoria Airport Authority.
- **Hosted workshops for CRISP members on the following species:** Canada geese, carpet burweed, English holly & hawthorn, European green crab, gorse, shiny geranium, yellow flag iris, and other topics.
- **Offered CRISP member agencies access to shared treatment and monitoring services** through a contractor through a Memorandum of Understanding, to manage high priority invasive species.
- **Received an annual grant of $16,000** from the Province of BC to support invasive species communication and awareness in the capital region (2020-2025).
- **Strengthened and developed new relationships with partners in the region**, as well as the Province of BC's Invasive Plant Program and the Invasive Species Council of BC (ISCBC).
- **Hosted an online CRD Invasive Species Symposium** with ISCBC (2022) – Approximately 80 individuals participated.
- **Hosted the first Invasive Sooty Bark Disease Symposium** with the Pacific Forestry Centre and District of Saanich, to raise awareness and encourage regional collaboration on this invasive tree disease that kills maples (and other species) and has human health impacts. 80 individuals participated.
- **Hosted the first Coastal Invasive Forum** (2023) in collaboration with the Qualicum First Nation and the Coastal Invasive Species Committee, bringing together more than 75 staff from agencies around Vancouver Island to learn about new invasive species to the region, discuss current management success stories and to foster conversations on common regional invasive species issues. Staff will support this event again in 2026.
- **Participated in the BC Regional Invasive Species Organizations (RISO)** collaboration and the ISCBC's Local Government Invasive Species Network, attended the provincial Invasive Species Forum to stay current with new research and maintain and build networks.

- Shared invasive species information packages with all local First Nations to offer to learn more about their perspectives and needs related to invasive species and to offer support, if desired.
- Supported and promoted Pesticide Applicator Course at the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific, to train local government and private contractors in the management of high priority invasive species.
- Liaised with Tsartlip Nation regarding an infestation of toxic and invasive giant hogweed.

Early Detection Rapid Response

Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) is a province-wide proactive approach to managing new invasive species to prevent their establishment. The Regional Invasive Species Program:

- Provided coordinated treatment, monitoring, education and quick action for approximately 60 outbreaks of five high priority species including black knapweed, blessed milk thistle, giant hogweed, knotweed (four types), poison hemlock, policeman's helmet, scotch thistle, and shiny geranium for the following agencies: CRD Environmental Protection, CRD Regional Housing, CRD Regional Parks, City of Langford, City of Victoria, District of Metchosin, District of Sooke, Juan de Fuca Electoral Area, Township of Esquimalt, and Town of Sidney. Some municipalities also treat priority invasives independently on public and private sites.
- Liaised with the Province of BC to verify and manage 15 sites of newly detected high-risk species (Egg Leaf Spurge, Flowering Rush, Goat's Rue, Shiny Geranium). The CRD is the first regional contact for verification of new invasive species reports.
- Worked collaboratively with T'Sou-ke Nation, District of Sooke and other CRD staff to arrange for provincial permission to manage highly invasive knotweed on the Sooke River.
- Led an extensive review to update the CRD Invasive Plant List to assist land managers in planning and prioritizing invasive species management and to highlight priority species for eradication.
- Conducted 10–20 field assessments each year to verify invasive plant reports, share management resources and disposal information.
- Liaised with the Ministry of Transportation and Transit each year regarding shared priority species and management in the region.

Regional Education & Outreach Program

- Supported five key behavior change programs to prevent the spread and harm of invasives, in collaboration with the ISCBC and other BC agencies:

Program	Audience
Buy Local Burn Local	Campers
Clean Drain Dry	Boaters, fishers, kayakers, paddleboarders
Don't Let it Loose	Pet stores, pet owners
Plant Wise	Nurseries, horticulture professionals, home gardeners
Play Clean Go/Work Clean Go	Outdoor recreation, outdoor staff

- Conducted outreach with local nurseries, pet stores, paddle board shops/rental agencies, and outdoor stores about invasive species and behavior change programs to reduce their impacts.
- Developed 10 new invasive species alert sheets for outreach and for use by CRISP member agencies.
- Distributed approximately 600 educational resources at community events and displays each year.
- Responded to approximately 200 public calls/emails each year regarding invasive species.
- Launched a social media campaign on invasive species as part of Canada-wide coordinated efforts for Invasive Species Action Month each May.
- Hosted displays and presented talks at community events (Seedy Saturdays, Swan Lake Native Plant Sale, Master Gardeners meetings etc.) taking invasive species awareness and action messages, reaching over more than 2,000 people each year.
- Responded to three media requests for information on poison hemlock and knotweed.
- Coordinated posting of 17 Clean Drain Dry signs at 10 local lakes – provided education about actions to take to reduce the spread of aquatic invasive species. 60 outreach packages were distributed.
- Collaborated to develop "Invasive Plants in Your Garden" booklet for outreach, with Habitat Acquisition Trust.
- Shared invasive species workshops with Indigenous youth, in partnership with Stewards of Scaí'new and Victoria Native Friendship Centre team (2022-2023).
- CRISP members report more than 22,000 hours at various agencies, working to manage established invasive species (such as English ivy, holly, Scotch broom, daphne laurel and others) in parks and natural areas in the capital region each year.

Disposal

- Coordinated a shared regional disposal bin (hosted by District of Saanich) for high-priority species.
- Purchased a mobile incineration unit (Burn Boss) to use for effective disposal of invasive species with CRD Regional Parks and Integrated Water Services.
- Conducted interviews and research on invasive species disposal practices in the region for future development of outreach material.

Inventory and Mapping

- Coordinated regional reporting, mapping and management for outbreaks and treatment sites; 15 new regional high-priority outbreaks were reported, mapped and verified.

Restoration, Research and Trials

- Promoted the UN Decade on Restoration with the University of Victoria, District of Saanich Parks, Habitat Acquisition Trust and others, to encourage focused efforts on ecological restoration in the 2021-2030 period.
- Supported researchers working on invasive species in the region.
- Continued collaborative relationship with the University of Victoria's Restoration of Natural Systems Program.
- Worked with Camosun College to trial electrical treatment of shallow rooted invasive species.

APPENDIX B

Capital Region Invasive Plant List

How to use this list: This list identifies the invasive alien plant species of concern in the capital region. All species on the list are considered a priority for management depending on context. Species have been placed in categories based on such factors as known distribution, values or assets threatened, management objectives and management viability. Each category has a different management approach and objective, and a unique colour. Icons are used to show key values and assets that each species threatens.

The four categories and their management objectives, criteria, considerations, and processes are as follows:

PREVENT (PR) — Prevent introduction and establishment in the capital region	
Definition	Species not yet known to occur in the capital region but likely to establish if introduced.
Considerations	May occur in nearby regions and/or on their Prevent or “Watch” lists.
Process	Monitor and consult with provincial Inter-ministry Invasive Species Working Group (IMISWG) and nearby jurisdictions. If a species is discovered in a single location or very isolated locations in the capital region that is not on any other Prevent or Eradicate lists, send information to IMISWG for direction. For species not known to occur in the capital region or adjacent jurisdictions, rely on input from subject matter experts and IMISWG.
ERADICATE (ER) — Eradicate from the capital region	
Definition	Species occurs in the capital region with few known infestations of limited extent.
Considerations	Is eradication feasible with available resources?
Process	Actively seek all occurrences in the region and respond quickly to eradicate them.
CONTAIN (CN) — Eradicate infestations outside containment areas and strategic control within.	
Definition	Species infestations exceed the resource capacity to eradicate from the capital region but preventing infestation expansion is possible.
Considerations	Regional eradication is not feasible due to extent and/or location of populations but populations can be contained. Infestations targeted for containment should be discrete such that a containment line can be drawn around it.
Process	Consider known occurrences, map them and draw containment (isolation) polygon around them, and eradicate any plants that occur outside the polygon.

STRATEGIC CONTROL (SC) — Management objective depends on context, e.g., land use objectives, values or assets threatened	
Definition	Species is widespread in the capital region and can no longer be contained or eradicated from the region.
Considerations	Eradication at the landscape level is not feasible. However, control measures are warranted where assets such as wildlife, ecosystems, recreation, and infrastructure (e.g., gravel pits) are threatened. Eradication or active suppression may be feasible at a local level considering but not limited to such criteria as mechanisms for spread, degree of threat, values threatened, and resource capacity.
Process	Evaluate at a local level on a case-by-case basis

Specific Values Icons and Listing Codes

Where applicable, icons are used to indicate specific values or assets that the species threatens, e.g., aquatic ecosystems, fire hazards, forest/woodland ecosystems, sports fields, gravel pits.


Human health


Animal health


Aquatic ecosystem (wetland, riparian), coastal dune ecosystems


Coastal bluff / rock outcrop


Fire hazard


Forest / woodland


Landscaping material sites (e.g., gravel pits, soil dumps, fill sites)


Linear infrastructure (e.g., roadsides, boulevards, hydro corridors, pipelines)


Meadows, grasslands, old fields, pasture and rangelands


Sports fields, developed parks and beaches

If a species is also on a provincial and/or CRD priority list and/or has a CRD alert sheet, codes have been added as follows:

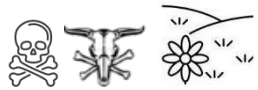
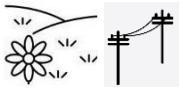
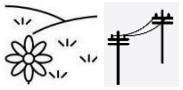
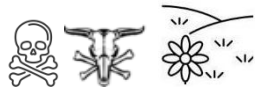
BCP = Provincial Prevent **BCE** = Provincial EDRR **BCC** = Provincial Contain or **BCC(r)** if Provincial Regional Contain
BCT = BC Provincial Priority Invasive Species list 2024 (subsequently updated in July 2025, after the RISP list update was completed)

CRDp = CRD high priority species list. Source: CRD Invasive Species website

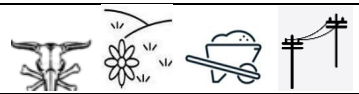
CRDa = CRD species alert sheet. Source: High Priority Species Alert Sheet (no date)

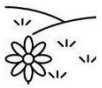
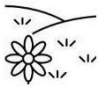
PREVENT (PR) — Prevent introduction and establishment in the capital region				
	Scientific Name	**Common Name**	**Specific Values Threatened**	**BC/CRD Lists**
	Aegilops cylindrica	Jointed Goatgrass		**BCE**
	Alhagi maurorum	Camelthorn		**BCP**
	Alopecurus myosuroides	Meadow/Slender Foxtail		**BCP**
	Ammophila breviligulata	American Beachgrass		
	Anchusa officinalis	Common Bugloss		**BCC(r)**
	Berteroa incana	Hoary Alyssum		**BCC(r)**
	Brachypodium sylvaticum	Slender False Brome		**BCE**
	Carduus pycnocephalus	Italian / Shore Thistle		**BCP**
	Carduus tenuiflorus	Slender-flowered Thistle		**BCP**
	Celastrus orbiculatus	Round Leaf Bittersweet		
	Centaurea calcitrapa	Purple Starthistle		**BCP**

PREVENT (PR) — Prevent introduction and establishment in the capital region				
	Scientific Name	**Common Name**	**Specific Values Threatened**	**BC/CRD Lists**
	Centaurea iberica	Iberian Starthistle		**BCP**
	Centaurea jacea	Brown Knapweed		
	Centaurea solstitialis	Yellow Starthistle		**BCE**
	Centaurea virgata ssp. squarrosa	Squarrose knapweed		**BCP**
	Chondrilla juncea	Rush Skeletonweed		**BCC(r)**
	Cirsium palustre	Marsh Plume Thistle		**BCC(r)**
	Crupina vulgaris	Common Crupina		**BCP**
	Cyperus rotundus	Purple Nutsedge		**BCP**
	Eichhornia crassipes	Water Hyacinth		**BCE**
	Gypsophila paniculata	Baby's Breath		
	Halogeton glomeratus	Saltlover		**BCP**
	Helianthus ciliaris	Texas Blueweed		**BCP**

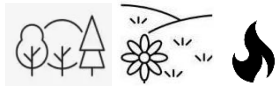
PREVENT (PR) — Prevent introduction and establishment in the capital region				
	Scientific Name	**Common Name**	**Specific Values Threatened**	**BC/CRD Lists**
	Hieracium pilosella	Mouse-ear Hawkweed		**BCE**
	Hydrilla verticillata	Hydrilla		**BCP**
	Hyoscyamus niger	Black Henbane		**BCE**
	Isatis tinctoria	Dyer's Woad		**BCE**
	Knautia arvensis	Field Scabious		**BCC(r)**
	Lepidium draba	Hoary Cress		**BCC(r)**
	Lepidium latifolium	Perennial Pepperweed		**BCE**
	Ludwigia peploides	Floating Primrose-willow		
	Milium vernale	Spring Millet Grass		**BCP**
	Myriophyllum heterophyllum	Two-leaf Watermilfoil		
	Odontites serotina	Red Bartsia		**BCP**
	Peganum harmala	African Rue		**BCP**

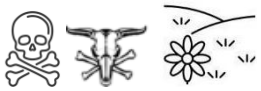
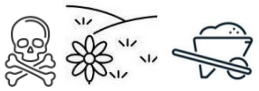
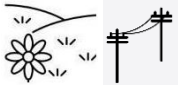
PREVENT (PR) — Prevent introduction and establishment in the capital region				
	Scientific Name	**Common Name**	**Specific Values Threatened**	**BC/CRD Lists**
	Pistia stratiotes	Water Lettuce		**BCE**
	Pueraria montana var. lobata	Kudzu		**BCP**
	Salvia aethiopsis	Mediterranean Sage		**BCP**
	Salvia pratensis	Meadow Clary		**BCP**
	Salvia sclarea	Clary Sage		**BCP**
	Solanum elaeagnifolium	Silverleaf Nightshade		**BCP**
	Sorghum halepense	Johnsongrass		**BCP**
	Spartina alterniflora	Smooth Cordgrass		**BCE**
	Spartina anglica	English cordgrass		**BCE**
	Spartina densiflora	Dense-flowered Cordgrass		**BCE**
	Spartina patens	Saltmeadow Cordgrass		**BCE**
	Stratiotes aloides	Water Soldier		**BCP**

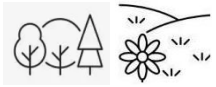
PREVENT (PR) — Prevent introduction and establishment in the capital region				
	Scientific Name	**Common Name**	**Specific Values Threatened**	**BC/CRD Lists**
	Taeniatherum caput-medusae	Medusahead		**BCP**
	Thymelaea passerina	Spurge Flax		**BCP**
	Tribulus terrestris	Puncture Vine		**BCC(r)**
	Ventenata dubia	North Africa Grass		**BCC**
	Zygophyllum fabago	Syrian Bean-caper		

ERADICATE (ER) — Eradicate from the capital region				
	Scientific Name	**Common Name**	**Specific Values Threatened**	**BC/CRD Lists**
	Abutilon theophrasti	Velvet-leaf		
	Alliaria petiolata	Garlic Mustard		**BCC** **CRDp**
	Anthriscus sylvestris	Wild Chervil		**BCC(r)** **CRDp**
	Arundo donax	Giant Reed		**BCE**
	Butomus umbellatus	Flowering Rush		**BCE**

ERADICATE (ER) — Eradicate from the capital region

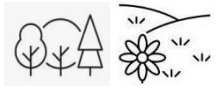
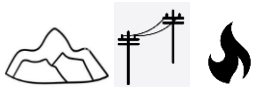
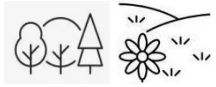
Scientific Name	Common Name	Specific Values Threatened	BC/CRD Lists
Carex pendula	Hanging Sedge		
Centaurea diffusa	Diffuse Knapweed		**CRDa**
Centaurea macrocephala	Bighead Knapweed		
Centaurea melitensis	Maltese Starthistle		**BCE**
Centaurea nigra	Black Knapweed		**CRDp CRDa**
Centaurea stoebe	Spotted Knapweed		**BCC(r)** **CRDp**
Conium maculatum	Poison-hemlock		**BCC** **CRDa**
Cynoglossum officinale	Hound's-tongue		
Cyperus esculentus	Yellow Nutsedge		
Cytisus multiflorus	White Spanish Broom		**BCC(r)**
Cytisus striatus	Portuguese Broom		**BCE**
Echium plantagineum	Paterson’s Curse		**BCP**

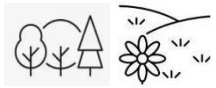
ERADICATE (ER) — Eradicate from the capital region				
	Scientific Name	**Common Name**	**Specific Values Threatened**	**BC/CRD Lists**
	Echium vulgare	Blueweed; Viper's Bugloss		**BCC(r)**
	Egeria densa	Brazilian Elodea		**BCE**
	Euphorbia cyparissias	Cypress Spurge		
	Euphorbia esula	Leafy Spurge		**BCC(r)**
	Euphorbia oblongata	Eggleaf Spurge		**BCE**
	Galega officinalis	Goat's Rue		**BCE**
	Genista monspessulana	French Broom		**BCE**
	Glyceria maxima	Giant Mannagrass		
	Heracleum mantegazzianum	Giant Hogweed		**BCC CRDp CRDa**
	Hieracium aurantiacum	Orange Hawkweed		**CRDa**
	Impatiens glandulifera	Policeman's Helmet		**BCC(r) CRDp CRDa**
	Impatiens parviflora	Jewelweed		

ERADICATE (ER) — Eradicate from the capital region				
	Scientific Name	**Common Name**	**Specific Values Threatened**	**BC/CRD Lists**
	Koenigia polystachya	Himalayan Knotweed		**BCC(r)** **CRDp**
	Linaria dalmatica	Dalmatian Toadflax		**CRDp**
	Linaria vulgaris	Common Toadflax		**CRDp**
	Lysimachia vulgaris	Garden Yellow Loosestrife		**BCC(r)** **CRDp**
	Nymphoides peltata	Yellow Floating Heart		**BCE**
	Onopordum acanthium	Scotch / Cotton Thistle		**CRDp**
	Pastinaca sativa	Wild parsnip		**BCC**
	Petasites japonicus	Japanese Butterbur		**BCC** **CRDa**
	Phragmites australis subsp. australis	Common Reed		**BCE**
	Potentilla recta	Sulphur Cinquefoil		
	Reynoutria japonica var. japonica	Japanese Knotweed		**BCC(r)** **CRDp CRDa**
	Reynoutria sachalinensis	Giant Knotweed		**BCC(r)** **CRDp CRDa**

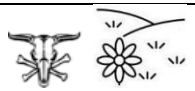
ERADICATE (ER) — Eradicate from the capital region			
Scientific Name	**Common Name**	**Specific Values Threatened**	**BC/CRD Lists**
Reynoutria x bohemica	Bohemian knotweed		**BCC(r) CRDp CRDa**
Spartium junceum	Spanish / Rush Broom		
Tamarix ramosissima	Tamarisk		**BCC(r) BCT**
Tussilago farfara	European Coltsfoot		

CONTAIN (CN) — Eradicate outside of containment areas and apply strategic control within.			
Scientific Name	**Common Name**	**Specific Values Threatened**	**BC/CRD Lists**
Ammophila arenaria	European Beachgrass		
Geranium lucidum	Shiny Geranium		**BCC CRDa**
Myriophyllum aquaticum	Parrotfeather		
Myriophyllum spicatum	Eurasian / Spiked Water-milfoil		

STRATEGIC CONTROL (SC) — Management objective depends on context.				
	Scientific Name	**Common Name**	**Specific Values Threatened**	**BC/CRD Lists**
	Aegopodium podagraria	Bishop's Goutweed; Ground Elder		
	Ailanthus altissima	Tree-of-Heaven		**BCC(r) BCT**
	Allium vineale	Crow Garlic; Field Garlic		
	Anthriscus caucalis	Burr Chervil		
	Arum italicum	Italian Arum, Orange Candleflower		**CRDa**
	Buddleja davidii	Butterfly Bush		
	Centaurea cyanus	Bachelor's Buttons		
	Cirsium arvense	Canada / Creeping Thistle		
	Cirsium vulgare	Bull Thistle		
	Clematis vitalba	Wild Clematis		
	Cotoneaster sp.	Cotoneaster		
	Crataegus monogyna	English / Common Hawthorn		**BCT**

STRATEGIC CONTROL (SC) — Management objective depends on context.				
	Scientific Name	**Common Name**	**Specific Values Threatened**	**BC/CRD Lists**
	Cyclamen hederifolium	Cyclamen		
	Cytisus scoparius	Scotch Broom		**BCC(r)**
	Daphne laureola	Spurge Laurel		
	Dipsacus fullonum	Teasel / Fuller's Teasel		
	Ficaria verna	Lesser Celandine		
	Foeniculum vulgare	Sweet / Common Fennel		**BCC(r)**
	Hedera helix + Helix varieties	English / Common Ivy & varieties		
	Hyacinthoides hispanica	Spanish Bluebells		
	Hyacinthoides non-scripta	English Bluebells		
	Hypericum calycinum	Aaron's-beard		
	Hypericum perforatum	Common St. John's-wort		
	Ilex aquifolium	English / Common Holly		**BCT**

STRATEGIC CONTROL (SC) — Management objective depends on context.				
	Scientific Name	**Common Name**	**Specific Values Threatened**	**BC/CRD Lists**
	Iris pseudacorus	Yellow Flag Iris		**BCC(r)** **CRDa**
	Jacobaea vulgaris	Tansy Ragwort		**CRDa**
	Lamium galeobdolon	Yellow Lamium		**BCC(r)**
	Ligustrum vulgare	European Privet		
	Lupinus arboreus	Tree / Bush Lupine		
	Lythrum salicaria	Purple Loosestrife		**BCC(r)**
	Paulownia tomentosa	Princess Tree		**BCT**
	Phalaris arundinacea	Reed Canary Grass		
	Prunus laurocerasus	Cherry-laurel		**BCT**
	Prunus lusitanica	Portugal Laurel		
	Rubus armeniacus	Himalayan Blackberry		
	Rubus laciniatus	Cutleaf Blackberry		

STRATEGIC CONTROL (SC) — Management objective depends on context.				
	Scientific Name	**Common Name**	**Specific Values Threatened**	**BC/CRD Lists**
	Salix alba 'Vitellina'	Golden Willow		**BCT**
	Silybum marianum	Blessed Milk Thistle		**BCC(r) CRDp CRDa**
	Soliva sessilis	Carpet Burweed		**CRDp CRDa**
	Tanacetum vulgare	Common Tansy		**BCC(r)**
	Tragopogon dubius	Yellow Salsify; Western Salsify		
	Tragopogon porrifolius	Common Salsify		
	Tripleurospermum inodorum	Scentless Chamomile		
	Typha X glauca	Blue Cattail (hybrid)		
	Typha angustifolia	Narrow-leaved / Lesser Cattail		
	Ulex europaeus	Gorse		**BCC(r) CRDa**
	Vinca major	Large periwinkle		
	Vinca minor	Common Periwinkle		

Update on the Regional Invasive Species Program

Environmental Services Committee

February 18, 2026

Black Knapweed

Giant Hogweed

Background

- Invasive species are a top stressor that impacts the natural environment & biodiversity.
- Pose environmental, economic and public health threats - expected to increase with climate change
- Since 2017, the CRD has supported coordination of invasive species management through the Regional Invasive Species Program
- Staffed by half-time coordinator with an annual budget of ~$130,000
- Program focuses on high priority **invasive plants** in the region e.g. knotweed, giant hogweed, black knapweed & others

Blessed Milk Thistle

Program Overview

Mandate: Reduce the impacts that invasive species have on the region's environment, economy and health.

Focus Areas:

1. Collaboration
2. Capacity building & staff training
3. Education & outreach
4. Early Detection Rapid Response
5. Disposal
6. Restoration & research

Carpet Burweed Workshop – Uplands Park

Capital Region Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP)

- CRD chaired & coordinated, intergovernmental working group with ~60 members from municipalities, First Nations, & other agencies
- Facilitates regional coordination, collaborative action and information sharing, key partners
- Staff also work closely with:
  - BC Ministry of Forests - Invasive Plant Program
  - Invasive Species Council of BC
  - National & international partners, researchers
  - Coastal Invasive Plant Committee

Capital Region Invasive Plant List

Capital Region Invasive Plant List

How to use this list: This list identifies the invasive alien plant species of concern in the capital region. All species on the list are considered a priority for management depending on context. Species have been placed in categories based on such factors as known distribution, values or assets threatened, management objectives and management viability. Each category has a different management approach and objective, and a unique colour. Icons are used to show key values and assets that each species threatens.

The four categories and their management objectives, criteria, considerations, and processes are as follows:

PREVENT (PR) — Prevent introduction and establishment in the capital region	
Definition	Species not yet known to occur in the capital region but likely to establish if introduced.
Considerations	May occur in nearby regions and/or on their Prevent or "Watch" lists.
Process	Monitor and consult with provincial Inter-ministry Invasive Species Working Group (IMISWG) and nearby jurisdictions. If a species is discovered in a single location or very isolated locations in the capital region that is not on any other Prevent or Eradicate lists, send information to IMISWG for direction. For species not known to occur in the capital region or adjacent jurisdictions, rely on input from subject matter experts and IMISWG.
ERADICATE (ER) — Eradicate from the capital region	
Definition	Species occurs in the capital region with few known infestations of limited extent.
Considerations	Is eradication feasible with available resources?
Process	Actively seek all occurrences in the region and respond quickly to eradicate them.
CONTAIN (CN) — Eradicate infestations outside containment areas and strategic control within.	
Definition	Species infestations exceed the resource capacity to eradicate from the capital region but preventing infestation expansion is possible.
Considerations	Regional eradication is not feasible due to extent and/or location of populations but populations can be contained. Infestations targeted for containment should be discrete such that a containment line can be drawn around it.
Process	Consider known occurrences, map them and draw containment (isolation) polygon around them, and eradicate any plants that occur outside the polygon.

- Key resource for local land managers & the public in managing invasive species
- 152 species, 58 plants added since the 2019 version
- 4 classification categories
  - Prevent
  - Eradicate
  - Contain
  - Strategic control

Yellow Toadflax

Program Accomplishments

- Updated regional priority invasive species list
- With partners, coordinated & supported regional management of high priority species (e.g. knotweed, poison hemlock, black knapweed)
- Coordinated the Capital Region Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP) meetings and hosted capacity workshops
- Collaborated with T'Sou-ke Nation & Dist. of Sooke to secure provincial permit to manage knotweed in the Sooke River
- Hosted demo of the Burn Boss (mobile incineration unit for invasive species disposal

Butterbur/Fuki

Invasive Species Regulatory Framework

- Overlapping jurisdictions on invasives leads to complexity and challenges
- Current provincial legislation is outdated
- Many invasive plant are sold and traded in BC; this increases pressure on local govts to manage impacts
- New report on economic impacts of invasives in BC expected in 2026 (Invasive Species Council of BC)

The April 2026 staff report will recommend CRD Board advocacy to the BC government on new invasive species legislation

Questions?

Thank you

Capital Regional District

CRDVictoria

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Making a difference...together

ERM 26-07

REPORT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2026

SUBJECT **Model Demolition Waste and Deconstruction Bylaw**

ISSUE SUMMARY

To present for Capital Regional District (CRD) Board endorsement a model bylaw for deconstruction and demolition waste that will serve as a resource for municipalities in the capital region.

BACKGROUND

At its March 2025 meeting, the CRD Board directed staff to develop a model demolition waste and deconstruction bylaw for municipalities in the region, using the City of Victoria's existing bylaw as a foundation.

Regional Direction and Data

Promoting the reuse of materials that would otherwise be sent for landfill disposal is one of the guiding principles of the region's 2021 Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP). Further, Strategy 5A of the SWMP requires the CRD to "develop model language for bylaws, best practices, official community plans and economic development strategies for use by local governments using research and collaboration to guide this process [of working towards a circular economy]."

The CRD's 2022 Hartland Landfill Waste Composition Study identified construction and demolition material as 13.3% of the overall waste stream, with another 18.9% of landfilled waste identified as wood and wood products. Compared to 2016 data, non-wood construction and demolition materials had increased by 29 kg/capita (6.6%) in 2022, while wood and wood products had increased by 15 kg/capita (1.9%).

Existing Waste Diversion Policies

In September 2022, the City of Victoria implemented its Demolition Waste and Deconstruction Bylaw to reduce the large volume of wood waste from house demolitions by establishing minimum wood-salvage targets, encouraging the construction industry to deconstruct or relocate homes rather than demolish them. This bylaw requires any person applying for a demolition permit to remove a structure built prior to 1960 to submit a refundable waste management fee of $19,500. The permit holder is then given a unique salvage target based on the square footage of the structure and, if the target salvage rate is achieved, their waste management fee is refunded.

Compliance with the City of Victoria bylaw ensures that wood from demolition work is kept intact for reuse. To date, the City of Victoria's bylaw has diverted more than 80 tonnes of wood for reuse and, due to the nature of the deconstruction process, has in many cases also preserved other reusable elements of these buildings, including windows, cabinets and doors.

The CRD Board's direction to ban wood and asphalt shingles from landfill disposal in 2024 further supported the economic case for material salvage and recycling, improving permit holder compliance with the City of Victoria's bylaw.

Proposed Model Bylaw

The CRD's proposed model bylaw (Appendix A) is based on the City of Victoria's existing regulation, with some minor modifications to facilitate implementation by municipalities that may have different ticketing frameworks and operating fees.

If amended and adopted by additional municipalities, the resulting increase in deconstruction and house moving activities (versus traditional demolition) will divert a range of construction and demolition materials from landfill disposal in support of the region's SWMP goal to reduce the region's landfilled waste to 250 kg per capita by 2031.

NEXT STEPS

If endorsed by the Board, staff will present this model bylaw to municipal colleagues at an upcoming Local Government Waste Reduction Working Group meeting. This working group is comprised of solid waste planning and operations staff representatives from municipalities across the region. Following this presentation, staff will distribute this staff report and the accompanying model bylaw to all working group members for review and consideration.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1
The Environmental Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:
That this model Demolition Waste and Deconstruction Bylaw be distributed to staff at municipalities in the capital region for consideration and independent review.

Alternative 2
That this report be referred back to staff for more information.

IMPLICATIONS

Alignment with Existing Plans & Strategies

A guiding principle of the 2021 SWMP is to promote the reuse of materials that would otherwise be landfilled. By incentivizing house moving and deconstruction, materials from house demolitions, including salvageable wood, are kept intact and can be reused.

The development and circulation of this model bylaw aligns with Strategy 5A in the SWMP, which directs staff to support local governments in working towards shared zero waste goals and a circular economy by developing model language for bylaws.

CONCLUSION

Construction and demolition materials have been identified as a significant proportion of the waste currently being disposed of at Hartland Landfill. The City of Victoria implemented a bylaw to address the volume of waste generated by house demolitions in 2022 and, following CRD Board direction in 2025, a model bylaw based on the City's regulation has been drafted as a resource for other municipalities in the region. Pending further Board direction, staff will share this model bylaw with local government staff for consideration and potential implementation in their respective municipalities.

RECOMMENDATION

The Environmental Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:
That this model Demolition Waste and Deconstruction Bylaw be distributed to staff at municipalities in the capital region for consideration and independent review.

Submitted by:	Russ Smith, Senior Manager, Environmental Resource Management
Concurrence:	Luisa Jones, MBA, General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Environmental Services
Concurrence:	Kristen Morley, J.D., Corporate Officer & General Manager, Corporate Services
Concurrence:	Ted Robbins, B. Sc., C. Tech., Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A: Model Demolition Waste and Deconstruction Bylaw

APPENDIX A

Model DEMOLITION WASTE AND DECONSTRUCTION BYLAW
BYLAW NO. [XX]

Prepared for:
Municipalities in the Capital Regional District December 2025

This Model Bylaw is for reference purposes only. It is recommended that prior to using the Model Bylaw, or any portions, that legal review and advice is obtained.

Acknowledgment: The template for this Model Bylaw is the City of Victoria Bylaw No. 22-062: Demolition Waste and Deconstruction Bylaw.

DEMOLITION WASTE AND DECONSTRUCTION BYLAW

A BYLAW OF [MUNICIPALITY]

The purposes of this Bylaw are to regulate, prohibit, and impose requirements to ensure that waste and reusable materials resulting from demolition work are managed in a manner that enhances and protects the wellbeing of the community and to ensure the efficient use of waste disposal and recycling services.

Contents

Under its statutory powers, including sections [numbers] of the [municipality's *Charter*], the [*Council of the Corporation* or equivalent] of [municipality] in an open meeting assembled enacts the following provisions:

PART 1 - INTERPRETATION

Title

1 This Bylaw may be cited as the "Demolition Waste and Deconstruction Bylaw".

Definitions

2 In this bylaw:

The following words have the same meaning ascribed to these terms in Division A, section 1.4 of the BC Building Code: basement, first storey, floor area, storey;

"above-ground floor area" means the sum of the floor area of each storey including the first storey and any upper storeys, but excluding the basement;

"Building Bylaw" means the [municipality's *Building Regulation Bylaw*] No. [XX];

"building official" has the same meaning ascribed to this term in the [municipality's *Building Regulation Bylaw*];

"Director" means the [municipality's Director of Engineering and Public Works or

equivalent] or their designated representative;

“rate adjustment” means a formula to calculate the reduced salvaging rate under section 3(4), as follows: salvaging rate minus kilograms of damaged or post-1960 wood divided by above-ground floor area, using a conversion of 1.4 kilograms per board foot;

“recycling” means the process of collecting, sorting, cleaning, treating and reconstituting materials that would otherwise be waste, and converting them into material that can be used for new products, and includes storage for such purpose;

“reuse” means further or repeated use of wood originating from work, and includes storage for such purpose but does not include recycling;

“salvaging” or “salvaged” means the removal of wood originating from work such that the materials are protected from damage and kept intact for:

i. reuse;
ii. sale or donation to a business or organization that resells or builds products using salvaged wood; or
iii. donation to a charitable organization that reuses or sells for reuse salvaged wood and is registered under the *Income Tax Act* (Canada) or a non-profit organization to which section 149 of the *Income Tax Act* applies;

“salvaging rate” means the amount of wood required to be salvaged, as specified in Column 1, Table 1, Schedule C, in order to be eligible for a waste management fee refund;

[“single family dwelling” or the equivalent term in the municipality] has the same meaning ascribed to this term in the [*Zoning Bylaw* or equivalent in the municipality];

[“two-family dwelling” or the equivalent term in the municipality] has the same meaning ascribed to this term in the [*Zoning Bylaw* or equivalent in the municipality];

“waste management fee” means the fee amount specified in section 3(1)(b);

“waste management fee refund” means the partial or complete refund of a waste management fee calculated in accordance with Schedules A and C;

“wood” includes dimensional lumber from studs, joists, beams, posts, blocking, headers, sheathing, rafters and flooring with a moisture content of 20% or less and suitable for salvaging, but excludes particle board and medium-density fiberboard material;

“work” means activities that require a building permit under the [municipality’s *Building Regulation Bylaw*]; that includes the complete or near- complete removal of a structure through demolition, deconstruction, disassembly, or relocation of a:

i. [single-family dwelling or the equivalent term in the municipality] constructed prior to 1960; or

ii. [two-family dwelling or the equivalent term in the municipality] constructed prior to 1960;

"Zoning Bylaw" means the [*Zoning Bylaw No. XX* or equivalent in the municipality].

PART 2 - REGULATIONS

Waste Management Fee and Fee Refund

3 (1) A person who carries out or causes to carry out work must submit to the [municipality]:

(a) a non-refundable administration fee of [$500, or an amount deemed appropriate based on the administrative costs within your municipality] at the time of submitting an application for a building permit for work;

(b) a waste management fee of $19,500 at the time of submitting an application for a building permit for work;

(c) a report within 90 days of completion of the work in the form prescribed in Schedule A; and

(d) supporting documentation listed in Schedule B attached with the report in subsection (c).

(2) Notwithstanding [NTD: Applicable section for permit fee] of the [*Building Bylaw* or equivalent in the municipality], a person is not required to submit a separate building permit application fee for the work in addition to the fee under subsection (1) of this bylaw.

(3) The holder of the building permit for work who has fulfilled the requirements under subsection (1) and met the salvaging rates to the satisfaction of the Director, is eligible for a waste management fee refund.

(4) Where, prior to submitting a building permit application for the work, the amount of wood available for salvaging was damaged by natural disaster, fire, water, insect infestation, or other causes or was added to a structure after 1960, then:

(a) the person may apply for a reduced salvaging rate by submitting supporting documentation listed in section iii., Schedule B, to the satisfaction of the Director; and

(b) the Director shall reduce the salvaging rate by applying the rate adjustment where, in the opinion of the Director, the criteria in this subsection (4) have been met.

(5) No fee refund shall be issued under this part where the building permit for the work has expired pursuant to the [*Building Bylaw* or equivalent].

Signage

4 A person who carries out or causes to carry out work must post and provide proof of signage on the site of the work in accordance with Schedule D of this bylaw within 10 days of receiving a building permit for the work and maintain such signage on site for the duration of the work.

Prohibition

5 No person shall knowingly submit false or misleading information to a building official in relation to any waste management fee refund application or related documentation pursuant to this bylaw.

PART 3 – GENERAL

Inspections

6 (1) The Director, a [municipality] employee authorized by the Director, or bylaw officer may enter on or into property in accordance with [section XX, *Community Charter* or equivalent in the municipality], to inspect and determine whether all regulations, prohibitions, and requirements of this bylaw are being met.

(2) A person must not prevent, obstruct, or attempt to prevent or obstruct, an entry authorized under subsection (1).

Offences

[We advise municipalities that have ticketing bylaws or that have opted into the bylaw notice adjudication system to consider whether to make the model bylaw subject to ticketing and to the bylaw notice adjudication system]

7 (1) A person commits an offence and is subject to the penalties imposed by this bylaw and the [*Offence Act* or equivalent in the municipality) if that person:

(a) contravenes a provision of this bylaw,

(b) consents to, allows, or permits an act or thing to be done contrary to this bylaw, or

(c) neglects or refrains from doing anything required by a provision of this bylaw.

(2) Each day that a contravention of a provision of this bylaw continues is a separate offence.

Penalties

8 A person found guilty of an offence under this bylaw is subject to a fine of not less than [$100.00 or as deemed appropriate] and not more than [$50,000.00 or as deemed appropriate] for every instance that an offence occurs or each day that it continues.

Severability

9 If any provision or part of this Bylaw is declared by any court or tribunal of competent jurisdiction to be illegal or inoperative, in whole or in part, or inoperative in particular circumstances, it shall be severed from the bylaw and the balance of the bylaw, or its application in any circumstances, shall not be affected and shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Consequential Amendments to Ticket Bylaw and Bylaw Notice Adjudication Bylaw

10 [NTD We advise any municipalities that make the bylaw subject to ticketing under ticketing bylaws or the Bylaw Notice Adjudication System to make consequential amendments to their ticketing bylaws as appropriate.]

PART 4 - TRANSITION, REPEAL, COMMENCEMENT

Definitions in Relation to this Part

11 In this Part:

"development permit" means a permit issued under section 490 of the *Local Government Act*;

["multiple dwelling" or the equivalent term in the municipality] has the same meaning ascribed to this term in the [*Zoning Regulation Bylaw* No. XX or equivalent in the municipality].

Transition Provision

12 Section 3(1) does not apply if the person has an approved development permit to construct a [multiple dwelling or the equivalent term in the municipality] on the same site as an existing [single family dwelling or the equivalent term in the municipality] or [two family dwelling or the equivalent term in the municipality].

Repeal of Transition Provision

13 Sections 11 and 12 of this bylaw are repealed.

Commencement

14 This bylaw comes into force on [Date], except:

(a) section 3(1)(b), which comes into force on [aforementioned date plus 12 months];

(b) section 13, which comes into force on [date in Section 14 (a) plus 21 months].

READ A FIRST TIME the **[XX] day of [Month] 202[X]**

READ A SECOND TIME the	**[XX]**	**day of**	**[Month]**	**202[X]**
READ A THIRD TIME the	**[XX]**	**day of**	**[Month]**	**202[X]**
ADOPTED on the	**[XX]**	**day of**	**[Month]**	**202[X]**

"First Name Last Name"
[MUNICIPAL CLERK or equivalent]

"First Name Last Name"
[MAYOR or equivalent]

SCHEDULE A
MATERIAL SALVAGE AND DISPOSAL REPORT

Table 1: Project Information

Project address	
Building permit number	
Person or contractor who carried out the salvage	
Demolition or deconstruction completion date	
House relocated for use at another location (*check if applicable)*: ☐	
Reporting in (*please check one*): Mass (kg or tonnes) ☐ Volume (board ft.) ☐	

Table 2: Wood Salvaged for Reuse, Sale or Donation—*if reporting in mass (kg or tonnes)*

Load of wood	**Name entity receiving material or describe how material is being reused***	**Date on scale receipt**	**Scale location**	**Net weight (kg or tonnes)**
1				
2				
3				
…				
Total				
Salvage rate achieved Total tonnes salvaged for reuse, sale or donation / Above ground square metres x 1,000 kg / 1 tonne = kg / square metres				

[See definitions of "wood", "reuse" and "salvaging" for acceptable wood, reuse activities or sale or donation entities]***

Table 3: Wood Salvaged for Reuse, Sale or Donation—*if reporting in volume (board feet*)

Species	**Thickness (inches)**	**Width (inches)**	**Length (feet)**	**Quantity**	**Total linear feet** = length x quantity	**Board feet** = (thickness in inches x width in inches x linear feet) / 12	**Name entity receiving material or describe how material is being reused***
					Total board feet:		
Salvage rate achieved *Total board feet salvaged for reuse, sale or donation* = *board feet* *Above ground square metres* _____ *square metre*							

[See definitions of "wood", "reuse" and "salvaging" for acceptable wood, reuse activities* or sale or donation entities]**

Table 4: Salvaged Plywood *(if applicable)*

Quantity	**Thickness (inches)**	**Width (feet)**	**Height (feet)**	**Name of entity receiving material**

Table 5: Materials Sent for Disposal or Recycling

Load of mixed waste or other material sent to disposal	**Material Disposed**			
	Date	**Material type**	**Facility**	**Metric tonnes or kilograms**
1				
2				
3				
…				
Total:				

SCHEDULE B
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

i. Wood salvaged for reuse, sale, or donation:

- Receipts for sale/donation of wood salvaged for reuse indicating contractor, business or organization name, quantity of wood and date*, or
- For wood stored for future reuse: address(es) of storage location(s) and contact information for site manager(s) at storage location(s), and
- Scale receipts for each load of wood sold, donated, or stored, indicating scale location, quantity of wood in kilograms or metric tonnes, and date
- A photo of each load of wood

OR, if the house as constructed was relocated for reuse:

- Documentation to demonstrate the move and the site to which the house was relocated

[**See definition of "reuse" and "salvaging" for acceptable reuse activities or sale or donation entities*]

ii. Mixed waste or other material sent for disposal or recycling:

- Disposal or recycling facility tipping receipts indicating facility name, date, material type and quantity by load

iii. Evidence of damage to salvageable wood, or additions or alterations after 1960, if applicable:

- Quantity in board feet of wood that is damaged or was added after 1960
- Written description of the cause of damage (e.g., fire, water, insect infestation), or additions or alterations made after 1960)
- Building plans with dimensions indicating impacted area(s)
- Building permits for alterations and additions made after 1960 if applicable
- Photos clearly showing damaged wood in situ and the impacted area(s) within the structure, or areas that were added or altered after 1960, prior to demolition or deconstruction;
- Other information that in the Director's opinion, is reasonably necessary for assessing the scope of damage, or additions after 1960.

SCHEDULE C
WASTE MANAGEMENT FEE REFUND

Table 1: Fee Refund

Column 1 – Salvaging rate: Amount of wood salvaged per unit of above-ground floor area	**Column 2 - Amount of waste management fee refund**
More than or equal to 40 kg or 28.3 board feet per square metre	100%
30 kg or 21.2 board feet to 39 kg or 27.5 board feet per square metre	75%
Less than 30 kg or 21.2 board feet per square metre	0%

SCHEDULE D
Sign Posting Procedures

1. The owner or owner's agent shall post the sign or signs in a prominent location, clearly visible from the street, and on the site that is subject to the work.

2. The owner or owner's agent shall provide proof of the posted signage to the [municipality] within 10 days of receiving a building permit for the work.

3. The [municipality] shall prepare the sign for the owner to use for the duration of the work. The sign must be returned to [municipality] within 10 days of the completion of the work. If the sign is damaged, lost or discarded, the owner is required to pay for the replacement of the sign.

The [municipality] reserves the right to request that the sign be removed from the site at any time during the work or for the period the demolition permit is active.

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File: 0360-20
Climate Action Task Force

Capital Regional District

Meeting Minutes
Climate Action Inter-Municipal Task Force (IMTF)

Friday, December 12, 2025	9:30 AM	Room 488/MS Teams

Present: Councillor S. Duck (Sidney), Councillor M. Gardiner (Victoria), Councillor D. Grove (Colwood), M. Wagner (Langford)

Electronic Participation: Councillor A. Baird (Highlands), Councillor M. Brame (Esquimalt), Councillor J. Brownoff (Saanich), Councillor S. Gray (Metchosin), M. Greeno (CRD Community Energy Specialist), Director G. Holman (SSI EA), Councillor S. Riddell (Central Saanich), Councillor T. St-Pierre (Sooke)

Staff: M. Carolsfeld (Climate Action Coordinator), P. Enright (Manager, Climate Action Programs), A. Laviguer (CRD E-Mobility Coordinator), M. Rowe (Climate Action Program Assistant, Recorder), R. Tooke (Senior Manager, Environmental Innovation & Strategy)

Regrets: Councillor A. Appleton (Oak Bay), Director P. Brent (SGI EA), Mayor P. Jones (North Saanich), A. MacKenzie (View Royal), Director A. Wickheim (JdF EA)

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 am.

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Territorial Acknowledgement

- P. Enright provided a Territorial Acknowledgment.

3. Approval of Agenda

- Agenda for the December 12, 2025, Climate Action Inter-Municipal Task Force meeting.

MOVED by Councillor S. Duck, SECONDED by Councillor M. Wagner
That the agenda be approved as circulated.
CARRIED

4. Adoption of Minutes

- Minutes from the September 12, 2025, Climate Action Inter-Municipal Task Force meeting.

MOVED by Councillor S. Duck, SECONDED by Councillor M. Wagner
That the minutes of the September 12, 2025, Climate Action Inter-Municipal Task Force

meeting be adopted as circulated.
CARRIED

5. Climate Action Program Updates

- P. Enright, M. Greeno, A. Laviguer, M. Carolsfeld, and M. Rowe provided background information and updates for the CRD Climate Action Service, including:
    - Staffing updates (Patrick Enright new Manager, Climate Action Programs), CleanBC Review (and potential coordinated response), Climate Action Strategy renewal (intending to go to Board late Spring or early Summer 2026), electric mobility regional charging network, Low Carbon Fuel Standard Reporting service, climate adaptation capacity-building (upcoming workshop for elected officials - now on February 27, 2026), energy and carbon emissions reporting, Home Energy Navigator program strategy update, BCSEA Cool It! Climate Leadership Training program, SustainableCRD community e-newsletter launch, and recent Climate Community Gathering.

Members advised that the CRD consider:

- That members expressed overall support for the CRD to coordinate a letter of support for the CleanBC review recommendations. Members also requested that the letter reflect key concerns, including the urgency of climate action, concerns over LNG exports, loss of old-growth forests and habitat connectivity, and the limited focus on public transportation infrastructure.

Actions:

a) CRD staff to explore coordinating a response to the Province on behalf of the region in support of the CleanBC review report, with input from IMWG and Task Force.
b) CRD staff to share invitations to upcoming climate adaptation capacity-building workshops with meeting minutes.
c) CRD staff to return to the Task Force with draft Climate Action Strategy in March 2026.
d) CRD staff to include a link to the new SustainableCRD newsletter sign-up with meeting minutes. Task Force members can then promote in their communities.
e) CRD staff to circulate promotional materials for BCSEA Cool It! Climate Leadership Training with meeting minutes. Task Force members to share with their communities.

6. Municipal Roundtable – Open Discussion

- Attendees provided brief updates regarding current projects and areas of interest in their respective municipalities and electoral areas. Discussion related to staffing changes, coastal flood adaptation, active transportation and EV charging infrastructure, rideshare services, managing competing priorities with need for housing/development and urban tree canopy, waste, recycling and composting services, updating climate action plans and OCPs, opportunities for collaboration with VIHA on climate adaptation, food policy, stormwater infrastructure upgrades, building retrofits, fleet electrification, managing competing priorities and budget considerations, business licensing and bylaw enforcement tools, regenerative development, and parking and zoning bylaw updates.

7. Other Items? Future Topics?

- Court cases and legalities - Natural Asset Management, balancing land development with

protection of forests, wetlands, tree canopy, etc.
- Coordination and advocacy to other levels of government
- Food policy, opportunity for a regional council? Foodlands Access Service
- Transportation Governance
- Revisit Terms of Reference for this group, interest in the ability to make motions to ESC
- Meeting Logistics:
  - First meeting in March 2026, avoid Spring Break
  - Avoid FCM in June
  - Avoid UBCM in September
  - Send out quarterly invites, though subject to the election, membership may change late 2026

Actions:

f) CRD staff to report back to Task Force at March 2026 meeting, clarifying role, function, and abilities of Task Force.
g) CRD staff to send out the 2026 Task Force quarterly meeting invites in January.

8. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

New Actions	**Responsibility**	**Timeline**
CRD staff to explore coordinating a response to the Province on behalf of the region in support of the CleanBC review report, with input from IMWG and Task Force.	Staff	ASAP
CRD staff to share invitations to upcoming climate adaptation capacity-building workshops with meeting minutes.	Staff	ASAP
CRD staff to return to the Task Force with draft Climate Action Strategy in March 2026.	Staff	Q1 2026
CRD staff to include link to SustainableCRD newsletter sign-up with meeting minutes. Task Force members can then promote in their communities.	Both	ASAP
CRD staff to circulate promotional materials for BCSEA Cool It! Climate Leadership Training with meeting minutes. Task Force members to share with their communities.	Both	ASAP
CRD staff to report back to Task Force at March 2026 meeting, clarifying role, function, and abilities of Task Force.	Staff	Q1 2026
CRD staff to send out the 2026 Task Force quarterly meeting invites in January.	Staff	Q1 2026
Past Actions	**Responsibility**	**Timeline**
Members to provide future meeting topic requests to Manager, Climate Action Programs.	IMTF	Ongoing
CRD staff to attach the minutes from the previous meeting with future meeting invites, in addition to linking to the SharePoint collaboration site.	Staff	Ongoing

Capital Regional District

Meeting Minutes

Solid Waste Advisory Committee

Friday, January 9, 2026

CRD Boardroom
625 Fisgard Street
Victoria, BC V8W 2S6

PRESENT: B. Desjardins (Chair), M. Hauzer, M. Kurschner (EP), E. Latta (EP), T. Love, M. McCullough (EP), D. Monsour, J. Oakley (EP), R. Pirie, C. Remington, J. Shaw, A. Sibley (EP), P. Singh, J. Smith (EP), M. Smith, J. Stitt, D. Thran, H. Unger

STAFF: V. Landa (Recorder), R. Smith, A. Chambers, A. Gilmour Ford, D. Moghaddam, N. Roberts, N. Salter, M. Tromp Hoover

REGRETS: F. Baker, M. Coburn, S. Young Jr.

EP - Electronic Participation

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 pm.

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

2. Approval of Agenda

Agenda for the January 9, 2026 Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting.

MOVED by D. Monsour, SECONDED by D. Thran
That the agenda be approved as circulated.
CARRIED

3. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes from the June 6, 2025, Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting.
Minutes from the October 10, 2025, Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting.

MOVED by M. Hauzer, SECONDED by C. Remington
That the meeting minutes be approved as circulated.
CARRIED

4. Chair's Remarks

- The Chair noted that 2026 is the final year of her CRD Board term with elections occurring this year.
- The Chair welcomed new members: T. Love, Owner/Operator of Private Waste Management Facility; P. Singh, Public representatives, at large; H. Unger, Public representatives, at large; J. Stitt, Willis Point representative; and M. Smith, Municipal Engineering Staff, City of Victoria.

5. Presentations/Delegations

There were none.

6. Committee Business

a. Staff Reports (for information)

Mattress Recycling – Provincial Policy Update (November 12, 2025, CRD Board). M. Tromp Hoover provided a verbal update on the Mattress Recycling – Provincial Policy Update staff report, and it is attached as Appendix A.

b. Rethink Waste Grant – 2025 Results (Presentation)

D. Moghaddam and N. Salter provided an overview of the Rethink Waste Grant Program including the Community Grant with project examples and the Zero-Waste Event Grant results. The presentation is attached as Appendix B.

c. Material Diversion Transfer Station – Progress Update (Presentation)

N. Roberts provided a progress update on the Solid Waste Management Plan Waste Composition Study including diversion strategies and results along with next steps. The presentation is attached as Appendix C.

d. Actual and Projected Monthly Refuse Tonnages at Hartland Landfill (standing item)

The tonnage graphs are posted via this link: https://www.crd.bc.ca/about/data/hartland-landfill-tonnage.

7. New Business

There was no new business.

8. Next Meeting

The next Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting will be March 6, 2026.

9. Closing Comments

There were no closing comments.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 14:07.

MOVED by D. Monsour, SECONDED by M. Smith
That the Solid Waste Advisory Committee be adjourned.
CARRIED

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ERM 25-28

REPORT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2025

SUBJECT **Mattress Recycling – Provincial Policy Update**

ISSUE SUMMARY

To provide an update on the recent exclusion of mattresses from a forthcoming amendment to the *BC Recycling Regulation*, including impacts for the Capital Regional District's (CRD) solid waste service.

BACKGROUND

In BC, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is an environmental policy that holds producers accountable for the full lifecycle of their products, including the costs and logistics for end-of-life collection and recycling. In 2021, the BC Ministry of Environment & Parks released an action paper titled "Advancing Recycling in BC: Extended Producer Responsibility Five-Year Action Plan". This report called for the launch of several new EPR programs, including one for mattresses and foundations that was set to launch in 2025.

Local and regional governments across BC have long advocated for and supported the Ministry's plan to implement EPR for mattresses, including resolutions from the Union of BC Municipalities in both 2014 and 2020 that called for the inclusion of mattresses in any future update to EPR programs. Despite significant support from these stakeholders, the Ministry recently reversed its position in July 2025, informing regional districts, through the BC Product Stewardship Council, that mattresses had been removed from a forthcoming update to the *BC Recycling Regulation*.

The rationale for this policy reversal is a concern that EPR fees would appear to increase costs for consumers during a period of inflationary pressure. The Province's economic analysis determined that, to reflect the true cost of end-of-life management for mattresses, potential EPR fees could be as high as $40-45 per unit. These would be charged at the time of purchase rather than disposal as they are now, potentially appearing as a cost increase to consumers due to this shift in timing. However, the Province also acknowledged that local and regional governments are currently subsidizing the disposal costs for these products to avoid illegal dumping—recognizing that the actual cost of recycling is already being covered by local governments and as a result, taxpayers, instead of the producers and consumers of these products.

DISCUSSION

Hartland Landfill currently accepts mattresses and their foundations as general refuse, charging $155/tonne in 2025 plus a $10 bin fee. Hartland also offers a voluntary mattress recycling program as part of its public drop-off area for the same cost as disposal. Through this voluntary program, the CRD shipped 280 tonnes of mattresses with metal springs for local processing in 2024 at a net cost of approximately $162,000. These figures do not include processing and landfilling costs for the high volume of mattresses and foundations accepted at Hartland Landfill that were not suitable for recycling.

Staff at several regional districts across BC are seeking direction from their Boards to send letters to the Minister of Environment & Parks to express their objections to the exclusion of mattresses from the Province's forthcoming EPR program expansion. This advocacy aligns with the CRD's Solid Waste Management Plan Strategy #10, Action A to "Advocate to the Province to expand EPR programs".

Current Challenges in Mattress Disposal and Recycling

- Mattresses and their foundations are very expensive and difficult to landfill as they do not easily compress or compact, so they take up significant airspace.
- If not dismantled and shredded, the metal springs and wires in mattresses can cause significant damage to the wheels and tracks of heavy equipment, which in turn increases maintenance costs and decreases operational capacity due to machinery downtimes.
- Coordinating recycling options for mattresses and foundations is also challenging for individual landfills as they are bulky, heavy and difficult to store and transport.
- The recycling value of mattress components (e.g., metal, felt, foam, wood) is determined by the quality of the units, yet keeping these materials dry and clean to preserve their value requires significant covered storage that is cost prohibitive to maintain.
- Mattresses and their foundations can also be contaminated with biohazards, posing a risk for staff who are moving these materials on site.
- While some local deconstruction is possible for certain types of mattresses, foam mattresses have become a larger share of this product category and do not contain high-value materials, nor can they be deconstructed effectively.

Mattresses are frequently dumped illegally in public spaces, with clean-up and enforcement costs covered primarily by municipalities. Although the CRD has local mattress hauling and processing contracts in place, most mattresses brought to Hartland Landfill are currently processed for recycling or shredded on site to reduce costs, airspace consumption and the risk of equipment damage.

Benefits of an EPR Program for Mattresses

- An EPR program for mattresses will transfer the financial and logistical burdens of end-of-life collection and management from local and regional governments to the producers and consumers of these products through a user-pay model charged at the time the mattress is purchased.
- The economies of scale and logistics coordination benefits of a province-wide EPR program will reduce market vulnerability for mattress recycling businesses.
- Mattresses and their foundations could be disposed of for free at Hartland Landfill and other recycling depots, reducing the incentive for illegal dumping throughout the region.

If an EPR program for mattresses is implemented by the Province, the CRD would expect to receive a fee for collecting, storing and handling these materials from a stewardship organization much like other EPR programs in BC. Only mattresses deemed unsuitable for recycling would be shredded and landfilled, saving significant airspace and therefore extending the lifespan of Hartland Landfill.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1
The Environmental Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:
That the Board Chair is authorized to send an advocacy letter to the Ministry of Environment & Parks expressing the Capital Regional District's objection to the recent exclusion of mattresses from its forthcoming update to the Province's *Recycling Regulation*.

Alternative 2
The Environmental Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:
That this report be referred back to staff for additional information.

IMPLICATIONS

Alignment with Existing Plans & Strategies

Advocating for the inclusion of mattresses in a future update to the Province's *Recycling Regulation* aligns with Strategy #10 in the CRD's Solid Waste Management Plan to "Support Existing and New Extended Producer Responsibility Programs".

Environmental Implications

Hartland Landfill currently receives a significant volume of mattresses and their foundations for disposal each year, both directly from residents and from municipalities that are retrieving illegally dumped materials. Although these products are currently being processed for recycling or shredded on site, continued disposal of these materials reduces the lifespan of Hartland Landfill.

Financial Implications

The CRD is currently subsidizing the cost of recycling for mattresses by approximately $162,000 annually. This figure does not include processing and landfilling costs for the high volume of mattresses that are not suitable for recycling. A province-wide EPR program will remove this cost from Environmental Resource Management's operational budget and allow for the development of the local mattress recycling industry with no budget impact. Free disposal of mattresses and their foundations at Hartland Landfill under an EPR program would also reduce the incentive to dump these products illegally across the region, reducing cleanup and enforcement costs currently covered by municipalities.

CONCLUSION

The Capital Regional District (CRD) is currently subsidizing the cost of end-of-life collection, management and recycling for mattresses. An Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program for these products, as previously endorsed by the Province, will shift the financial and logistical burden of mattress disposal from the CRD to producers much like dozens of other products already under EPR stewardship. A new EPR program will also reduce illegal dumping, extend the life of Hartland Landfill and support the development of a circular economy by leveraging the economies of scale for mattress recycling. Staff recommend that the CRD Board respond to the Province's recent policy decision with an advocacy letter that reinforces CRD support for an EPR program that will reflect the true cost of managing mattresses.

RECOMMENDATION

The Environmental Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:
That the Board Chair is authorized to send an advocacy letter to the Ministry of Environment & Parks expressing the Capital Regional District's objection to the recent exclusion of mattresses from its forthcoming update to the Province's *Recycling Regulation*.

Submitted by:	Melanie Tromp Hoover, BA, Acting Senior Manager, Environmental Resource Management
Concurrence:	Luisa Jones, MBA, General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Environmental Services
Concurrence:	Ted Robbins, B. Sc., C. Tech., Chief Administrative Officer

Rethink Waste Grant 2025 Overview

Environmental Resource Management

Solid Waste Advisory Committee

January 09, 2026

Agenda

- Overview of Rethink Waste Grant Program
- Community Grant & Project Examples
- Zero-Waste Event Grant & Event Examples

Overview - Rethink Waste Grant Program

SWMP Goals:

Goal #3: To have informed citizens that participate effectively in proper waste management practices

SWMP Strategy#2B:

- Establish a Community-based waste reduction grant program

Objective:

- To fund community projects that advance the 5R-Pollution Prevention hierarchy by diverting materials from landfill.

Overview

Rethink Waste Grant Program

- **Community Grant**
  - Supports community-based waste reduction initiatives
- **Zero-Waste Event Grant**
  - Supports waste reduction at public events

Community Grant (2022-2025)

Year	Number of Applications Received	Funding Approved
2022	19	$48,137
2023	31	$79,590
2024	31	$66,973
2025	50	$174,091

Lifecycles Project Society

Project: Full Circle Fruit Project

- Improving food security in Greater Victoria for 30 years
- Converts B-Grade fruit into juices, jams and jellies

Achievements:

- Diverted ~7200 lbs of B-Grade fruit from the landfill
- Conducted 3 workshops comprising 44 participants
- Sold 70 jars of jam in 2025

Grant Funds: $3,166

District of Saanich

Project: Reusable Bowls for the Saanich Strawberry Festival

- To reduce the use of single-use paper or composable bowls
- Provided reusable dishware for the Strawberry Festival

Achievements:

- Achieved a 95% return rate: 3,528 bowls used; 3,360 bowls returned
- Prevented 3,528 single-use items from entering the landfill
- Promoted Community engagement
- Fostered Community partnerships

Grant Funds: $5,000

Transition Salt Spring Society

Projects: Community Clothing Swap & a Community Toy Swap

- To help normalize the reuse and redistribution of unwanted items as an alternative to landfill disposal.

Achievements:

Community Clothing Swap	Community Toy Swap
• 725 Shoppers • 26 volunteers • 2,400 lbs of clothing went to new homes	• 294 shoppers • 29 Volunteers • 1,215 lbs of toys went to new homes

Grant Funds: $3,000

View Royal Elementary School

Project: Cardboard Creativity and Waste Reduction Toolbox

- Reduce waste by diverting clean cardboard from recycling and using it for multi-stage student projects
- Teach students about the waste hierarchy and principles of circular design using ADST concept.

Achievements:

- Cardboard is now reused 2-4 times
- Measurable decrease in cardboard volume
- 275 Students participated
- Community engagement

Grant Funds: $3,345

Zero-Waste Event Grant

Grant Overview

- $10,000 for organizers of public events
- To reduce the amount of event waste going to landfill

Grant Objectives:

- Increase waste diversion
- Gather data on waste streams and volumes
- Encourage reusable containers

Zero-Waste Event Grant Results

15 successful grant applications

Total of **$72,051** granted

6013 kg of waste produced overall

89% waste diverted overall (i.e. 5362 kg)

ArtisTree

Event Info:

- Local art showcase, live music, food vendors at Government House
- ~20,000 attendees

Achievements:

- Hired a waste manager and bought waste collection infrastructure
- 77% waste diverted from landfill
- Intention to incorporate reusables for 2026

Grant Funds: $3,888

Canadian Ultimate Championship – Grand Masters Series

Event Info:

- National Ultimate Frisbee Tournament
- 4 locations: Topaz Park, Royal Athletic Park, Saint Michael's University, Central Park
- ~920 attendees

Achievements:

- Hired waste manager to educate and sort
- 97% waste diverted from landfill
- Model shared with Ultimate Canada

Grant Funds: $5,250

Crabfest

Event Info:

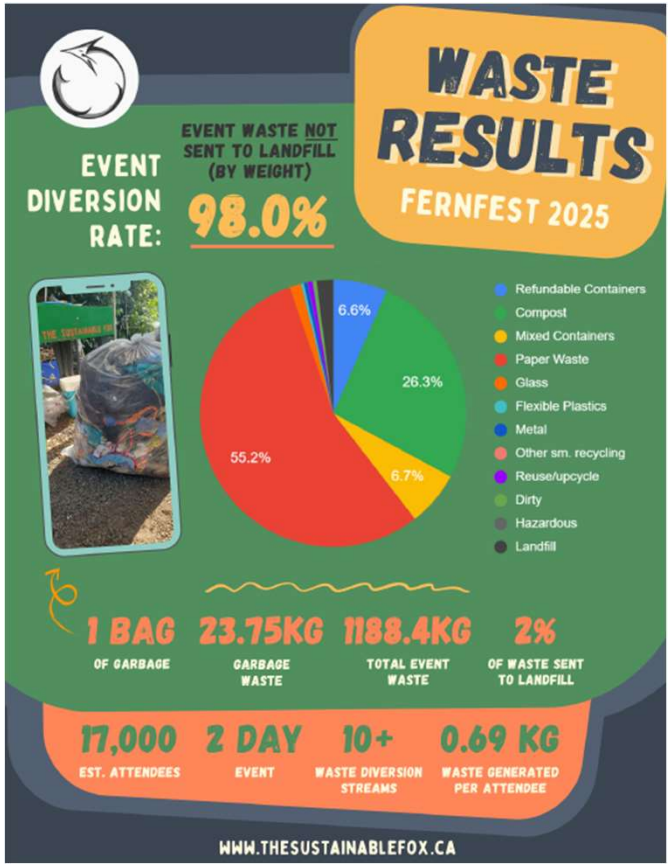
- Served +1600 crab boil buckets at Ships Point
- ~12,000 attendees

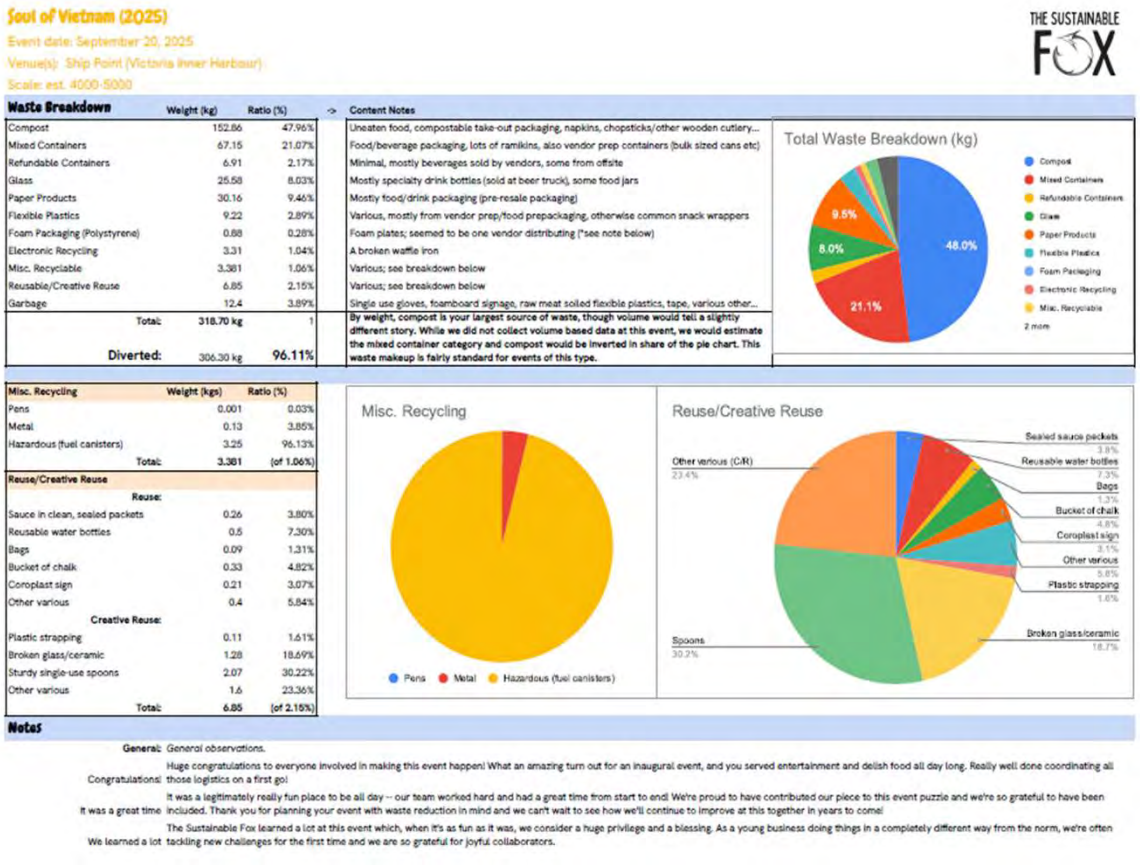
Achievements:

- Hired a waste manager and purchased waste system infrastructure
- 68% waste diverted from landfill
- Planning to implement reusable containers for 2026

Grant Funds: $8,737

Reporting and Data Collection





Sout of Vietnam (2025)

Event date: September 20, 2025

Venue(s): Ship Point (Victoria Inner Harbour)

Scale: est. 4000-5000

THE SUSTAINABLE FOX

Waste Breakdown	Weight (kg)	Ratio (%)	->	Content Notes
Compost	152.86	47.96%		Uneaten food, compostable take-out packaging, napkins, chopsticks/other wooden cutlery...
Mixed Containers	67.15	21.07%		Food/beverage packaging, lots of ramikins, also vendor prep containers (bulk sized cans etc)
Refundable Containers	6.91	2.17%		Minimal, mostly beverages sold by vendors, some from offsite
Glass	25.58	8.03%		Mostly speciality drink bottles (sold at beer truck), some food jars
Paper Products	30.16	9.46%		Mostly food/drink packaging (pre-resale packaging)
Flexible Plastics	9.22	2.89%		Various, mostly from vendor prep/food prepackaging, otherwise common snack wrappers
Foam Packaging (Polystyrene)	0.88	0.28%		Foam plates; seemed to be one vendor distributing (*see note below)
Electronic Recycling	3.31	1.04%		A broken waffle iron
Misc. Recyclable	3.381	1.06%		Various; see breakdown below
Reusable/Creative Reuse	6.85	2.15%		Various; see breakdown below
Garbage	12.4	3.89%		Single use gloves, foamboard signage, raw meat soiled flexible plastics, tape, various other...
Total:	318.70 kg	1		By weight, compost is your largest source of waste, though volume would tell a slightly different story. While we did not collect volume based data at this event, we would estimate the mixed container category and compost would be inverted in share of the pie chart. This waste makeup is fairly standard for events of this type.
Diverted:	306.30 kg	96.11%		

Misc. Recycling	Weight (kgs)	Ratio (%)
Pens	0.001	0.03%
Metal	0.13	3.85%
Hazardous (fuel canisters)	3.25	96.13%
Total:	3.381	(of 1.06%)

Reuse/Creative Reuse		
Reuse:		
Sauce in clean, sealed packets	0.26	3.80%
Reusable water bottles	0.5	7.30%
Bags	0.09	1.31%
Bucket of chalk	0.33	4.82%
Coroplast sign	0.21	3.07%
Other various	0.4	5.84%
Creative Reuse:		
Plastic strapping	0.11	1.61%
Broken glass/ceramic	1.28	18.69%
Sturdy single-use spoons	2.07	30.22%
Other various	1.6	23.36%
Total:	6.85	(of 2.15%)

Notes

General:	General observations.
Congratulations!	Huge congratulations to everyone involved in making this event happen! What an amazing turn out for an inaugural event, and you served entertainment and delish food all day long. Really well done coordinating all those logistics on a first go!
It was a great time	It was a legitimately really fun place to be all day -- our team worked hard and had a great time from start to end! We're proud to have contributed our piece to this event puzzle and we're so grateful to have been included. Thank you for planning your event with waste reduction in mind and we can't wait to see how we'll continue to improve at this together in years to come!
We learned a lot	The Sustainable Fox learned a lot at this event which, when it's as fun as it was, we consider a huge privilege and a blessing. As a young business doing things in a completely different way from the norm, we're often tackling new challenges for the first time and we are so grateful for joyful collaborators.

Thank you

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@crdvictoria

Capital Regional District

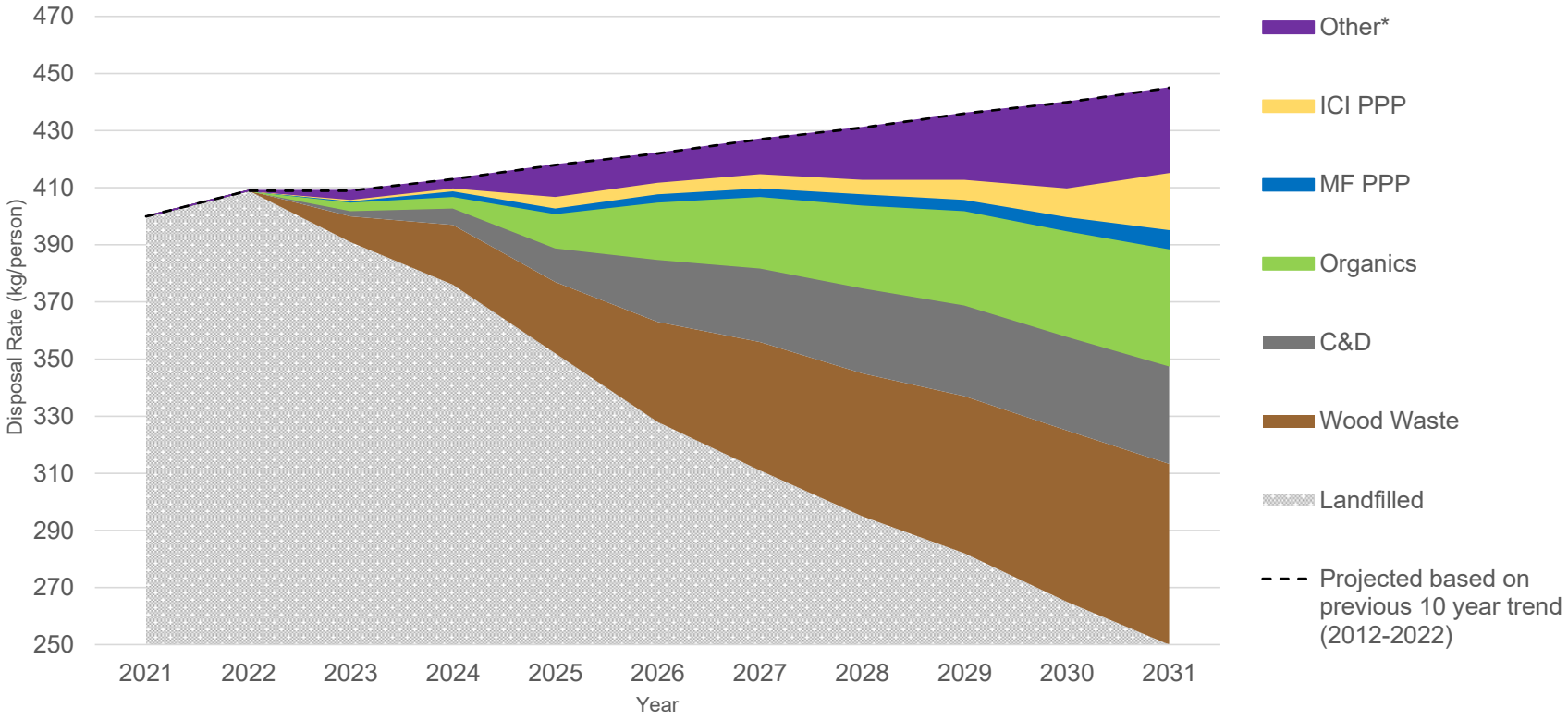
CRDVictoria

crd.bc.ca

Hartland Landfill
Material Diversion Transfer Station

Solid Waste Management Plan
Waste Composition Study (2022)

Solid Waste Management Plan
Pathway to 250kg/person



Diversion Strategies
Tipping fees (2026)

	Tipping Fee (per tonne)
MANDATORY RECYCLABLES	
Clean Wood	$80
Treated Wood	$110
Asphalt Shingles	$110
WASTE	
General refuse/Clean renovation and demolition waste	$160

Diversion Strategies
Requirement to separate

Fines	
Fail to separate waste	$500
Fail to separate waste (floor trailer)	$1,000

Diversion Strategies
Transfer Station

Accepted

- Asphalt shingles
- Wood
- Rigid plastics
- Mattresses
- Yard and garden waste
- Specific invasives

Diversion Strategies
Transfer Station

Asphalt shingles

- Single/multiple layers
- Torch on roofing
- Roll on roofing

Diversion Strategies
Transfer Station

Wood

Clean wood

- Pallets
- Crating
- Off-cuts

Treated wood

- Painted
- Stained

Diversion Strategies
Transfer Station

Rigid plastic

- Various resins types are accepted
- No metal, chemicals, or residual fuel

Diversion Strategies
Transfer Station

Mattresses

- Wood: ground and shipped to end users
- Metal springs: recycled
- Textiles: sent to the active face

Diversion Strategies
Transfer Station

Yard/garden waste

- Ground and hauled to a local farm

Diversion Strategies
Transfer Station

Invasives

- blackberry
- ivy
- Scotch broom

Results
Diversion

Material	Annual target (t)	Diversion in first year of operation
Asphalt shingles	9,000	7,600
Clean wood	5,500	1,700
Treated wood	22,000	17,000
Rigid plastics	3,000*	190**
Mattresses	280 (2024 tonnage)	280
Yard and garden waste	2,250 (2024 tonnage)	2,250
Invasives	N/A	84

*Based on Solid Waste Composition Study
**Forecast based on initial trial

Next Steps

- Issue RFP for new operations contract
- Look for other diversion options
  - e.g., carpet and underlay
- Move materials up the hierarchy
  - e.g., salvageable lumber
- Reduce GHG emissions
  - e.g., haul/process materials closer to MDTS

Any questions?

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