



Making a difference...together

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The Honourable Minister Ravi Parmar  
Minister of Forests  
Via email: [FOR.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:FOR.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

Dear Minister Parmar:

**RE: STRENGTHENING BRITISH COLUMBIA'S APPROACH TO INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT**

On behalf of the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board, I write to urge the Province of British Columbia (BC) to modernize and strengthen its regulatory framework for invasive species management.

In 2023, the Inter-Ministry Invasive Species Working Group reviewed existing legislative framework and identified several gaps and areas for improvements. They recommended the development of a new, comprehensive Act with supporting regulation and policy as the best approach to adequately address all high-risk invasive species and their pathways of introduction and spread. *The BC Weed Control Act* and regulations are out of date, and while the need for new invasive species regulation has been raised in the strategic plans of the Invasive Species Council of BC (as far back as 2005), and at the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) meetings over numerous years, no new regulation has been drafted.

Local governments across the capital region are seeing firsthand the increasing impacts of invasive species on ecosystems, infrastructure, agriculture, and community well-being. The CRD established a Regional Invasive Species Program to bring together local governments, First Nations and land managers across the capital region to pursue a coordinated approach to invasive species education, communication and action.

The current provincial framework remains fragmented across multiple statutes and ministries, limiting its effectiveness in preventing new introductions and controlling spread. Invasive species are a significant stressor on regional biodiversity and environmental sustainability. Climate change is exacerbating the issues and will lead to more challenges in the future.

While regional programs and partnerships are working diligently to manage invasive species, local governments do not have the legislative tools required to address the key pathways of introduction. As a result, the CRD is often left to manage the problems after they are established at greater environmental and financial cost.

In particular, we recommend that the Province:

- undertake a comprehensive review and modernization of the invasive species legislative framework to improve clarity, consistency, and enforceability;
- establish a clear, province-wide list of priority invasive species subject to regulatory controls; and

- implement a ban on the sale, barter, gifting, and transport of designated priority invasive species across BC.

Strengthening the regulatory framework would better support the work already being carried out by regional invasive species organizations, Indigenous partners, and local government.

Invasive species are a province-wide challenge that requires a coordinated, province-wide response. We appreciate the Province's ongoing commitment in this area and would welcome the opportunity to support and collaborate on this important work.

Sincerely,



Cliff McNeil-Smith  
Chair, Capital Regional District Board

cc: CRD Board  
Ted Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer, CRD  
Luisa Jones, General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Environmental Services, CRD

