



Reference: 285508

August 20, 2026

VIA EMAIL: crdchair@crd.bc.ca

Cliff McNeil-Smith, Board Chair
Capital Regional District
PO Box 1000
Victoria, British Columbia
V8W 2S6

Dear Cliff McNeil-Smith,

Thank you for your letter of June 8, 2026, regarding strengthening our approach to invasive species management. I appreciate your concerns and have noted your recommendation that the Province of British Columbia continues work to modernize and strengthen the regulatory framework for invasive species management in BC, with the goal of improving clarity, consistency and enforceability, and establishing an updated province-wide list of priority invasive species subject to regulatory controls.

As you may know, the Ministry of Forests has invasive plants listed in regulations under the *BC Weed Control Act* and the *Forests and Range Practices Act*. However, I am aware these lists are outdated and do not currently capture all priority high-risk invasive plants being managed in BC. I am also aware there are broader gaps in the current provincial invasive species legislative framework with the potential result that pathways of introduction for many high-risk invasive species are not adequately controlled, including the ongoing sale of some priority invasive plants.

The Inter-Ministry Invasive Species Working Group (IMISWG) is the coordinating body for invasive species prevention and management in BC, with representation from all resource and land management ministries. The current Chair of this working group is with the ministry's Range Branch. As noted in your letter, IMISWG's review of current legislation and policy in the past has identified invasive species that are not adequately addressed and where potential policy improvements (such as preventing the sale of invasive plants) could help reduce the risk of ongoing introduction and spread of high-risk invasive species. The IMISWG also works closely with our federal counterparts on various federal-provincial-territorial working groups and continues to raise the importance of prevention and closing current pathways of introduction that fall under federal responsibility.

We recognize the significant impacts invasive plants can have on economic, ecological, social, and cultural values and the increasing risk with climate change and the associated large-scale disturbances such as wildfire and floods. Preventing the introduction of invasive plants into BC continues to be a priority for our government, and as you noted, addressing the transport of invasive plants in BC is a critical part of preventing new introductions. My ministry remains committed to pursuing improved policy solutions for invasive plant management and appreciates the support of the Capital Regional District.

Please contact Crystal Chadburn, acting Provincial Invasive Plant Officer, and chair of the IMISWG, at Crystal.Chadburn@gov.bc.ca if you wish to further discuss the ministry's Invasive Plant Program.

I acknowledge and can appreciate how addressing the prevention of invasive species introductions at a provincial scale would better support invasive species management efforts by the Province, local governments, First Nations, and non-profit organizations. Thank you again, for writing to share your concerns on this important issue, and thank you for the work you do to represent the region we call home.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ravi Parmar', with a stylized, cursive script.

Ravi Parmar
Minister

pc: Capital Regional District Board
Ted Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer, Capital Regional District
Luisa Jones, General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Environmental Services, Capital Regional District
Jodie Kekula, A/Director, Range Branch, Ministry of Forests
Crystal Chadburn, A/Provincial Invasive Plant Officer, Ministry of Forests,
and Chair, Inter-Ministry Invasive Species Working Group