

# Notice of Motion - Environmental Protection Bylaws

WHEREAS the Official Community Plan {"OCP"} identifies the preservation of our natural environment as a fundamental principle;

AND WHEREAS the OCP also recognises that the Municipality is in the rare and endangered Coastal Douglas-fir biogeoclimatic zone and that this includes a variety of rare ecosystems as well as many provincially identified rare and endangered species;

AND WHEREAS Council has acknowledged the climate emergency we are facing and understands the added impact climate change will have on many aspects of our environment and the immediate need to protect steward and rehabilitate the important ecological functions and services our land base provides us;

AND WHEREAS Council's 2019-2022 Strategic Plan includes as a vision statement that we will be " ... stewarding healthy forests, rivers and lakes;"

AND WHEREAS Council's Strategic Plan states as an objective that "We lead in environmental policies and practices to support the future health of the community"

AND WHEREAS Council's Strategic Plan has a number of priority items related to strengthening our protection of the environment, including: supporting the health of our beaches, making environmental improvements to Quamichan and Somenos Lakes, developing a municipal biodiversity protection strategy, and strengthening environmental policy in all land use planning;

AND WHEREAS the municipality currently has policy tools that provide environmental protections, it is likely that our current suite of environmental protection policies (bylaws, DPAs, etc.) may have both missing components or components that need to be strengthened;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that staff be directed to provide Council with 1) an assessment or inventory of our current approach to environmental protection which includes an evaluation of what is working well, what is missing, what requires strengthening; and 2) a recommendation for a process to achieve a "state of the art" modern package of strong and effective environmental protection bylaws, including, but not limited to, bylaws related to:

- prevention of unauthorised land clearing;
- maintenance of natural hydrological functions and erosion prevention;
- prevention of nutrient/pollutants getting into storm drains and natural watercourses;
- noxious and invasive weeds;
- Garry oak ecosystem protection;
- Wildlife habitat protection;
- Urban forest enhancement;
- Greenways protection/creation; and
- Pesticide herbicide use.