

Shuswap Watershed Council

Province of British Columbia
Office of the Premier and Office of the Minister of Environment
Sent by e-mail to premier@gov.bc.ca and env.minister@gov.bc.ca

21 April 2016

Re: Praise for invasive mussel defence program

Dear Honourable Premier Clark and Honourable Minister Polak, Minister of Environment:

I am writing on behalf of the Shuswap Watershed Council to express our support and gratitude for the recent enhancements to the province's invasive mussel defence program.

The Shuswap Watershed Council (SWC) is a collaborative program of the Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Thompson-Nicola Regional District, District of Sicamous, City of Salmon Arm, Regional District of North Okanagan, Secwepemc Nation, and the BC Ministries of Agriculture and Environment. Our mandate is to enhance water quality and safe recreation in the Shuswap watershed.

The Shuswap watershed is a special place: it's the centre-piece of the regional tourism economy and attracts visitors world-wide; it supports a diversity of fish and wildlife; it provides drinking water for thousands of residents; and it facilitates a highly desirable lifestyle for many residents. The accidental introduction of mussels into our watershed would be devastating and irreparable, and would impart a huge cost on all orders of government, businesses, utilities and homeowners for maintenance and repair. Thank you for taking this decisive action to keep BC waters mussel-free.

Kind regards,

Paul Demenok, Shuswap Watershed Council Chair
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Cc:
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Neil Muth, Columbia Basin Trust
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