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The Honourable Catherine McKenna
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
107 Catherine Street (Main Office)
Ottawa, Ontario K2P 0P4
Via email: Catherine.McKenna@parl.gc.ca

Dear Minister McKenna:

RE: MANAGEMENT OF NON-MIGRATORY CANADA GEESE IN THE CAPITAL REGION

On behalf of the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board, I am writing to request the federal government increase resources to maintain and enhance the scope and scale of non-migratory Canada goose management in our region.

Large populations of non-migratory Canada geese significantly impact commercial crops in the Saanich Peninsula farm community, which affects the viability of producing local food for the region. Local governments and large land owners incur increased maintenance and operation costs dealing with goose-related issues, such as: negative human interactions with territorial geese actively protecting their nest sites and young broods; families of geese crossing streets creating traffic hazards; high density of fecal matter on recreational fields, beaches and grass; and concerns over fecal coliform originating from geese feces polluting swimming areas and agriculture lands. In some areas, Canada geese also contribute to the degradation of natural and environmentally sensitive habits, impacting ecological function and biodiversity.

Local governments and landowners in the capital region are investing significant, time, effort and resources to manage the large populations of non-migratory Canada geese, whose management is under the jurisdiction of higher levels of government. The CRD, provincial agencies, participating municipalities and other stakeholders partnered to fund a project to collect extensive data on the goose population abundance and distribution, seasonal habitat use by geese and agriculture impacts in the capital region in 2010. The resulting [Regional Canada Goose Management Strategy](#) outlined a long-term, multi-faceted approach for the management of non-migratory Canada geese in the capital region to achieve the following goals: (1) reduce impacts on agricultural crops from Canada goose populations in the capital region to a level that prevents conflict between geese and human activities; (2) develop a knowledge base for the CRD, First Nations, farmers and local governments; and (3) reduce goose impacts on parks and recreational areas.

Since 2010, the CRD has participated on a loosely-coordinated working group made up of local governments, provincial wildlife authorities, Canadian Wildlife Service, Peninsula Agriculture and Area Commission and other stakeholders. While work to implement the recommendations of the strategy has been ongoing, no one agency has taken the lead on advancing its progress in a

coordinated fashion. Recent aerial counts estimate the Canada goose population at between 4,000-6,000, indicating that the goose populations in the region remain relatively high and stable, despite the ongoing individual efforts of local government and various stakeholders.

Increased resources to support the issue of non-migratory Canada goose management in the region are required from higher levels of government. In addition, cooperative efforts of all parties would be enhanced with increased coordination and collaboration among multiple local governments, senior government agencies, large landowners and the agricultural community to more effectively manage geese populations in the region and minimize the social, environmental and economic impacts to the region. We ask that the federal government provide the necessary resources to enhance non-migratory Canada goose management in the region.

If your staff have any questions, please contact Glenn Harris, Senior Manager, Environmental Protection Division (gharris@crd.bc.ca; 250-360-3090). Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Colin Plant
Chair
Capital Regional District Board

cc: CRD Board Members
Robert Lapham, Chief Administrative Officer, CRD
Larisa Hutcheson, General Manager, Parks & Environmental Services, CRD
Glenn Harris, Senior Manager, Environmental Protection, CRD
The Honourable Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture
The Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource
Operations and Rural Development
The Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment & Climate Change Strategy