



CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT

NOTICE OF MOTION

From: Councillor Tim Morrison

Introduced: Council Meeting – June 5th, 2023

Subject:
Supporting Biodiversity in Local Communities – UBCM Resolution Submission

WHEREAS: British Columbia and Canada have committed to protecting and restoring biological diversity, including in the Convention on Biological Diversity and the *Together for Wildlife* Strategy;

AND WHEREAS: protecting and restoring biological diversity contributes toward more resilient and healthy local communities, as well as ecosystem health, while helping to contain emergency management and infrastructure costs in the context of climate change;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Province work with local governments and First Nations to support the protection and restoration of biological diversity in local communities, including establishing a Local Natural Areas Protection Fund to support local efforts to acquire land for biodiversity and ecosystem health.

AND THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The Township of Esquimalt submit the above resolution to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) for consideration of 2023 UBCM resolutions by the June 30th submission deadline, and that copies be shared with local governments within the Capital Regional District, requesting favourable consideration and resolutions of support.

STRATEGIC RELEVANCE:

- The Township of Esquimalt works to support economic, cultural, social, and **environmental health** for our current and future generations (DRAFT)
- Climate Resilience and Environmental Stewardship (DRAFT)

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Not Applicable

BACKGROUND:

Protecting and restoring biological diversity is consistent with Canada's commitments under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and BC's commitments in the *Together for Wildlife* Strategy, as well as the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and BC's *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.

Acting now to protect and restore biodiversity contributes toward more resilient and healthy local communities — advancing community health and healthy waterways, watersheds, airsheds, and plant and animal species. These actions also make financial sense, containing emergency management and infrastructure costs in the context of climate change.

Creating a *Local Natural Areas Protection Fund* provides a mechanism for the Province to partner with local governments, allocating funds to municipalities, regional districts and First Nations to support land acquisition for biodiversity and ecosystem health.