

From: [Barb Desjardins](#)
To: [Corporate Services](#)
Subject: Fwd: Loss of Biodiversity goes beyond our Backyard
Date: June-05-23 10:30:21 AM

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: debi wade [REDACTED]
Date: June 4, 2023 at 9:20:57 PM PDT
To: Barb Desjardins <Barbara.Desjardins@esquimalt.ca>
Subject: Loss of Biodiversity goes beyond our Backyard

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Township of Esquimalt Network. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.



Dear Mayor DeJardins,

My name is Deb Wade and I am a resident of Esquimalt. I am writing to express my concern about the current state of biodiversity in our community and support for the attached *Resolution: Supporting Biodiversity in Local Communities*.

Biodiversity is important to me because it is essential to maintaining healthy ecosystems and ensuring a livable climate for my grandchildren. This resolution, if passed, will help to secure much-needed funding to restore and protect biodiversity within communities throughout B.C.

I am aware that the Township of Esquimalt supports biodiversity through its [2022 Climate Action Plan, 2020 Township of Esquimalt Adaptation Planning Guide](#), and the [Township of Esquimalt Official Community Plan](#) (Adopted by Council June 25, 2018). I am encouraged to see that this issue is already being taken seriously and that Council will be discussing the resolution during the June 19, 2023 Council Meeting.

I urge Council to act as quickly as possible by directing staff to send

electronic copies of the resolution to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities requesting favorable consideration for it. This is time sensitive in order to meet the June 30th submission deadline for the fall convention.

I understand and appreciate there are a number of competing priorities; however, biodiversity is declining at an alarming rate. The world has lost 5% to 10% of all insect species in the last 150 years (250,000 and 500,000 species), and the number of birds in the United States and Canada has fallen by 29%, or roughly 2.9 billion ([2022 The Collapse of the Insects](#)) - many birds rely on insects. More can be done to protect and restore our natural environment and in turn support much needed biodiversity within our community.

I feel strongly about this and hope that you do too.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

In gratitude,

Deb Wade
654 Drake Ave.
Esquimalt BC

UBCM Resolution on Supporting Biodiversity in Local Communities

That Council [*the Board*] endorse the following resolution and direct staff to send electronic copies to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities and local governments in this regional district, requesting favourable consideration and resolutions of support:

Resolution: Supporting Biodiversity in Local Communities

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.

BACKGROUNDER FOR UBCM RESOLUTION:

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.



From: [Eleanor Calder](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: Resolution for UBCM on Biodiversity
Date: June-05-23 9:00:21 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Township of Esquimalt Network. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Councillor Mayor and Councillors,

I am writing on behalf of Esquimalt Climate Organizers to support the Motion being brought forward tonight and hopefully discussed on June 19th on bringing a Resolution to the UBCM fall meeting.

Biodiversity is important to us because it is essential to maintaining healthy ecosystems and ensuring a livable climate for future generations. Biodiversity is what connects all of us to a healthy ecosystem. We strongly believe that we must increase our efforts to protect and restore biodiversity in our Township. Each one of our members has identified a loss or a concern in our neighbourhoods like less bees and insects in our gardens, less trees for our birds and animals to nest, and less of our usual birds, less habitat for animals that we have seen in the past. Each loss will lead to more disconnect with our valuable natural habitat.

We are aware that Esquimalt Township does support biodiversity through the Climate Action plan, and we are encouraged to see that this issue is already being taken seriously. However, we believe there is still more that can be done to ensure that we are doing everything we can to protect and restore our natural environment.

We look forward to working with the Township to protect our natural environment by providing an Environmental lens to the decisions that will impact the future.

Regards,
Eleanor Calder,
Behalf of Esquimalt Climate Organizers

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