

From: [Blake Crouch](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: UBCM Resolution: Supporting Biodiversity in Local Communities.
Date: June-15-23 5:11:52 PM
Attachments: [Blake Crouch - Biodiversity Letter to Esq Mayor Council.pdf](#)

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 and Councillors Armour, Boardman, Cavens, Helliwell, Rotchord and Morrison,

My name is Blake Crouch and I am a resident of Esquimalt. I have attached a letter detailing my concern about the current state of biodiversity in our community and support for the attached Resolution: Supporting Biodiversity in Local Communities.

Kind regards

Blake Crouch

15 June 2023

Dear Mayor DeJardins and Councillors Armour, Boardman, Cavens, Helliwell, Rotchord and Morrison,

My name is Blake Crouch 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 future generations. 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 very strongly about the need for greater protections for the web of life, and I offer my support in advancing this resolution and any local government actions that enable biodiversity. I believe that we can work together to create a more sustainable and livable city for ourselves and future generations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

In gratitude,

Blake Crouch

SUPPORTING BIODIVERSITY IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES

ADVOCACY RESOLUTION TO 2023 UBCM CONVENTION

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

15 June 2023

governments, allocating funds to municipalities, regional districts and First Nations to support land acquisition for biodiversity and ecosystem health.

From: [Shirley M](#)
To: [Corporate Services](#)
Subject: Fwd: Letter of support for UBCM Biodiversity Resolution
Date: June-16-23 7:11:25 PM
Attachments: [Biodiversity Letter to Esq Mayor Council FINAL06162023.pdf](#)

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.

It wasn't clear if I was to forward this one to corporate services as well. Sorry for any duplication. Shirleyh

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Shirley M [REDACTED]
Date: Fri, Jun 16, 2023 at 9:49 AM
Subject: Letter of support for UBCM Biodiversity Resolution
To: <council@esquimalt.ca>

Hello, please find attached my written comments to Council regarding Notice of Motion 23-298, Agenda item #10 for the Esquimalt Township Council meeting scheduled for Monday, June 19 2023.

Please let me know if you are unable to open the file and require another format for submission.

Sincerely,

Shirley Meaning
[REDACTED]

Shirley Meaning
913 Kingsmill Road
Esquimalt, BC V9A 4K8

June 16, 2023

Esquimalt Township Council
council@esquimalt.ca

Dear Mayor Dejardins and Councillors Armour, Boardman, Cavens, Helliwell, Rotchord and Morrison,

My name is Shirley Meaning 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 future generations. 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 (Notice of Motion 23-298) 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 very strongly about the need for greater protections for the web of life, and I offer my support in advancing this resolution and any local government actions that enable biodiversity. I believe that we can work together to create a more sustainable and livable city for ourselves and future generations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

In gratitude,

Shirley Meaning

SUPPORTING BIODIVERSITY IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES

ADVOCACY RESOLUTION TO 2023 UBCM CONVENTION

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: [susan gage](#)
To: [Corporate Services](#); [Council](#)
Subject: Supporting Biodiversity in
Date: June-17-23 12:03:25 PM

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 Members of Esquimalt Council,

I'm writing on behalf of the Justice Team of Esquimalt United Church, a group committed to social, economic, and environmental justice. We are very concerned – and we think you probably are too – about the loss of biodiversity in our province. Of all the Canadian provinces and territories, BC is home to the richest diversity of vascular plants, mosses, mammals, butterflies and breeding birds. Many of the species in British Columbia are at risk of extinction. According to the Nature Trust of BC, of the 3,808 native species in BC for which conservation status has been assessed, 43% are considered “of provincial biodiversity concern.”[1]

And, according to the Government of Canada: “Biological diversity is vital to maintaining life on Earth and to ensuring a clean, safe and sustainable environment.”[2]

The good news is that it's not too late to turn the tide. We are still able to protect the health of natural ecosystems, restore habitat, remove invasive species, reduce pollution. Recently the Esquimalt United Church Justice Team learned of a campaign being spearheaded by the Sierra Club of BC, involving concerned citizens all over BC going to their municipal councils to ask for support for the attached resolution. This resolution will be moved at the next meeting of the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) in September. And the more support it receives, the more chance that it will pass and encourage the BC government to support biodiversity at a municipal level, including the creation of a fund for municipal biodiversity projects. We feel this would be a benefit for us all.

We therefore urge you to support this motion when it comes before council.

Thank you for supporting the environmental health of Esquimalt.

Yours sincerely,

Susan Gage

For the Esquimalt United Church Justice Team

[1] <https://www.naturetrust.bc.ca/conserving-land/about-biodiversity>)

[2] <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/biodiversity/publications/why-biodiversity-is-important-to-you.html>