

## Deborah Liske

---

**Subject:** FW: 250977: Deer Management Strategy  
**Attachments:** image109ded.JPG; ATT00001.htm; image9ddb44.JPG; ATT00002.htm; image075a97.JPG; ATT00003.htm; image193142.JPG; ATT00004.htm; 09 12 2019 Minister Donaldson Letter re Deer Management Strategy.pdf; ATT00005.htm; Deer Management - Minister Donaldson.pdf; ATT00006.htm; 250977 Desjardins Signed Final.docx.pdf; ATT00007.htm

**From:** "Minister, MAH MAH:EX" <MAH.Minister@gov.bc.ca>  
**Date:** January 15, 2020 at 8:54:36 AM PST  
**To:** Barb Desjardins <Barbara.Desjardins@esquimalt.ca>  
**Cc:** "Psyllakis, Jennifer FLNR:EX" <Jennifer.Psullakis@gov.bc.ca>, "McNeill, Diana A FLNR:EX" <Diana.McNeill@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** 250977: Deer Management Strategy

Good morning,

Please find attached a letter from the Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Thank you.

---

**From:** Jodi Graham <Jodi.Graham@esquimalt.ca> **On Behalf Of** Barb Desjardins  
**Sent:** November 15, 2019 2:26 PM  
**To:** Minister, MAH MAH:EX <MAH.Minister@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Minister Robinson - meeting request  
**Importance:** High

Office of Honourable Minister Robinson,

On behalf of Mayor Desjardins, I am emailing to request a meeting with Minister Robinson re: region wide deer management strategy. Attendee's to include: Mayor Haynes [District of Saanich], Mayor Murdoch [District of Oak Bay], Mayor Screech [Town of View Royal] and a representative from the City of Victoria.

Our request to meet with Minister Donaldson at UBCM as well as a subsequent request to meet in Victoria was denied. Please see attached letters for background information. Due to this we are requesting a meeting with you for local government support.

If you require any further information, please contact me directly.

Thank you,  
jodi

**Barbara Desjardins**  
Mayor, Township of Esquimalt  
Lekwungen Territory  
Tel: 1-250-883-1944 | [www.esquimalt.ca](http://www.esquimalt.ca)

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT		
For Information:		
<input type="checkbox"/> CAO	<input type="checkbox"/> Mayor/Council	
<input type="checkbox"/> Blair		
RECEIVED: JAN 15 2020		
Referred: Rachel		
<input type="checkbox"/> For Action	<input type="checkbox"/> For Response	<input type="checkbox"/> COTW
<input type="checkbox"/> For Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council Agenda	<input type="checkbox"/> IC



## CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT

Municipal Hall, 1229 Esquimalt Road, Esquimalt, B.C. V9A 3P1  
Website: [www.esquimalt.ca](http://www.esquimalt.ca) Email: [info@esquimalt.ca](mailto:info@esquimalt.ca)

Voice: (250) 414-7100  
Fax: (250) 414-7111

September 12, 2019

Honourable Doug Donaldson  
Minister Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development  
Room 248 Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Via email to: [FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

Dear Minister Donaldson,

We, the undersigned Mayors representing 8 municipalities in Greater Victoria, are seeking your support to develop and implement a region-wide deer management strategy.

As you know, your ministry is working with the District of Oak Bay on a research project to gather baseline data on deer densities, range, population dynamics and dispersal rates and then to support a first round of immuno-contraception over the summer and fall of this year.

Other municipalities in Greater Victoria have also launched research initiatives to gather baseline data on deer populations. For example, the Township of Esquimalt, through the Urban Wildlife Stewardship Society (UWSS), has undertaken two comprehensive deer population estimate surveys over the last two years that provide robust data on numbers and primary locations. A third survey will be undertaken shortly.

The Township of Esquimalt also conducted a 2016 survey of residents that found that 62 percent of residents are concerned about the presence of deer, 52 percent had spent money to deal with or prevent deer damage to their plants and 13 percent reported experiencing aggressive behavior by a deer.

While Oak Bay's efforts to use immuno-contraception is a good and humane first step at controlling the deer population, deer management is most effective when undertaken on a region-wide basis. To date, your ministry has only approved immuno-contraception in Oak Bay and only as part of a research project.

We want to work with you and your ministry to leverage our collective deer population research

efforts and implement a region-wide deer immuno-contraception program to manage and gradually reduce the deer population across our municipalities.

We want to underscore the need to move forward quickly on this process. Every year, more and more deer are being hit by cars or being infected by diseases, while an increasing number of our residents are being impacted by aggressive deer behavior. Residents are looking for governments to take fast and humane action to manage and reduce the deer population in our municipalities.

We look forward to discussing this further with you and have put a request in to meet with you at this year's UBCM in Vancouver.

Sincerely,



Barbara Desjardins  
Mayor, Township of Esquimalt



Fred Haynes  
Mayor, District of Saanich



Lisa Helps  
Mayor, City of Victoria



Geoff Orr  
Mayor, District of North Saanich  
Royal



Cliff McNeil-Smith  
Mayor, Town of Sidney



David Screech  
Mayor, Town of View



Kevin Murdoch  
Mayor, District of Oak Bay



Rob Martin  
Mayor, City of Colwood



Ref: 250860

October 8, 2019

Barbara Desjardins, Mayor, Township of Esquimalt  
Fred Haynes, Mayor, District of Saanich  
Lisa Helps, Mayor, City of Victoria  
Geoff Orr, Mayor, District of North Saanich  
Cliff McNeil-Smith, Mayor, Town of Sidney  
David Screech, Mayor, Town of View Royal,  
Kevin Murdoch, Mayor, District of Oak Bay  
Rob Martin, Mayor, City of Colwood

Via email to: [info@esquimalt.ca](mailto:info@esquimalt.ca); [mayor@saanich.ca](mailto:mayor@saanich.ca); [mayor@victoria.ca](mailto:mayor@victoria.ca);  
[admin@northsaanich.ca](mailto:admin@northsaanich.ca); [mayor@sidney.ca](mailto:mayor@sidney.ca); [mayorscreech@viewroyal.ca](mailto:mayorscreech@viewroyal.ca); [mayor@oakbay.ca](mailto:mayor@oakbay.ca);  
[mayor@colwood.ca](mailto:mayor@colwood.ca);

Dear Honourable Mayors:

Thank you for your letter of September 12<sup>th</sup> expressing your interest in developing and implementing a region-wide deer management strategy with support from the Provincial government. Minister Donaldson has asked that I reply on his behalf.

As you know, the Province supports local governments in their management of conflicts with deer in urban areas through the Provincial Urban Deer Operational Cost-Share (PUDOCs) Program. On September 30<sup>th</sup>, the B.C. Government renewed this program for 2019/20, confirming \$100,000 to help fund urban deer management projects across the province. For information on the PUDOCs Program visit:  
<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2019FLNR0232-001796>.

PUDOCs provides two eligible categories for funding: operational projects and research projects. Research based projects are trial-based applied research intended to directly or indirectly deter deer populations with methods that are not yet determined to be effective in achieving objectives or managing associated risks in BC.

As your letter notes, the Municipality of Oak Bay's current immuno-contraception project falls under the PUDOCs program funding eligibility criteria as a research project. This research trial is still underway, and therefore the necessary data to determine if the program is successful and suitable for broader expansion is not yet available. The knowledge we gain from this research will help inform any future expansion as an operational project.

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT		
For Information:		
<input type="checkbox"/> CAO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mayor/Council	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Blair		
RECEIVED: OCT 24 2019		
Referred:		
<input type="checkbox"/> For Action	<input type="checkbox"/> For Response	<input type="checkbox"/> COTW
<input type="checkbox"/> For Report	<input type="checkbox"/> Council Agenda	<input type="checkbox"/> IC

I understand you were not able to connect with Minister Donaldson on this topic at the recent Union of BC Municipalities gathering. However, staff would be pleased to meet with you at your convenience if you would like to discuss the status of the immuno-contraception research project or other aspects of urban deer management. If you would like to do so, please contact Diana McNeill at [Diana.McNeill@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Diana.McNeill@gov.bc.ca) or 778 698-9169 to set up a meeting.

Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Psyllakis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jennifer Psyllakis, Director  
Wildlife and Habitat Branch

**Kim Maddin**

---

**From:** Rachel Dumas  
**Sent:** October-24-19 3:12 PM  
**To:** Kim Maddin  
**Subject:** FW: Agenda item from Mayor  
**Attachments:** Re: Minister Donaldson ... ; DOC102419-10242019134912.pdf

**Importance:** High

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Mail Log Please.

**Rachel Dumas**  
Corporate Officer, Manager of Corporate Services  
Tel: 250-414-7135

---

**From:** Jodi Graham  
**Sent:** October-24-19 2:56 PM  
**To:** Rachel Dumas  
**Subject:** Agenda item from Mayor

Rachel – please see attached.

Thanks,  
jodi

**Jodi Graham**  
Executive Assistant | Office of the Mayor & CAO  
Tel: 1-250-414-7101

## Kim Maddin

---

**From:** Barb Desjardins  
**Sent:** October-24-19 2:54 PM  
**To:** Jodi Graham  
**Subject:** Re: Minister Donaldson ...

This needs to go on agenda please

Sent from my iPhone

Barbara Desjardins, Mayor  
Tel: 1-250-883-1944

> On Oct 24, 2019, at 2:42 PM, Jodi Graham <[Jodi.Graham@esquimalt.ca](mailto:Jodi.Graham@esquimalt.ca)> wrote:

>

> Appears as the letter was sent to an inbox that did not make it to me, you or the mail log ... I will follow up per the letter re: meeting with staff not Minister Donaldson.

>

>

>

>

>

>

> Jodi Graham, Executive Assistant | Office of the Mayor & CAO

> Tel: 1-250-414-7101

>

>

> <DOC102419-10242019134912.pdf>

**Kim Maddin**

---

**From:** Barb Desjardins  
**Sent:** October-24-19 2:53 PM  
**To:** Lisa Helps; David Screech; Mayor@saanich.ca; mayor@sidney.ca; mayor@oakbay.ca; Carol Hamilton; Jodi Graham; Geoff Orr; Charlayne Thornton-Joe  
**Subject:** DOC102419-10242019134912.pdf  
**Attachments:** DOC102419-10242019134912.pdf; ATT00001.txt

Given this response, do you want me to set the meeting up with staff?

Thanks

Barbara Desjardins, Mayor  
Tel: 1-250-883-1944





January 15, 2020

Ref: 250977

Her Worship Mayor Barbara Desjardins  
and Co-signers  
Township of Esquimalt  
1229 Esquimalt Rd  
Esquimalt BC V9A 3P1

Dear Mayor Desjardins and Co-signers:

Thank you for your email requesting a meeting with me regarding a region wide deer management strategy. I apologize for the delay in responding.

As the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) has the expertise in this area and supports local governments in their management of urban deer populations, they are best suited to respond to your request to discuss the status of the immune-contraception research project and other aspects of urban deer management.

I understand that Jennifer Psyllakis, Director, Wildlife and Habitat Branch, FLNRORD, has offered to meet with you to discuss the status of the project. To arrange a meeting with Jennifer, please contact Diana McNeill, Office Manager, Wildlife and Habitat Branch, by email at: [Diana.McNeill@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Diana.McNeill@gov.bc.ca), or by telephone at: 778 698-9169.

Thank you, again, for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

Selina Robinson  
Minister

pc: Jennifer Psyllakis, Director, Wildlife and Habitat Branch  
Diana McNeill, Office Manager, Wildlife and Habitat Branch,