

From: Iris Hesketh-Boles [<mailto:iheskethboles@ubcm.ca>] **Sent:** Wednesday, October 15, 2014 9:28 AM **Subject:** AVICC Member to Member - RDN Re-affirming Support for Metro Vancouver Bylaw 280

Please forward to your elected officials and the CAO.

Dear AVICC Members:

The Chair of the Nanaimo Regional District would like you to have a copy of his recent letter to the Honorable Mary Polak Re-affirming Support for Metro Vancouver's Bylaw 280. As noted in the letter, the recent resolution endorsed by the Nanaimo Regional District Board included reference to encouraging AVICC members to send similar indications of support for the Bylaw to the Province.

Iris Hesketh-Boles

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October 10, 2014

File: 5365-22

Honorable Mary Polak
Ministry of Environment
PO Box 9047
STN PROV GOV
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Polak;

**Re: Letter Re-affirming Support for Metro Vancouver's Proposed Recyclable
Material Regulatory Bylaw No. 280**

On February 3, 2014, Paul Thorkelsson, Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) CAO, wrote to advise you of the RDN's support for the above referenced bylaw. More recently, the Regional Board reaffirmed their support through the following motion carried during the regular meeting of September 20, 2014:

MOVED Director Willie, SECONDED Director Lefebvre, that staff be directed to prepare correspondence from the Regional District of Nanaimo Board Chair to the appropriate Provincial Ministries encouraging the Minister to approve the Bylaw; and that staff be directed to forward copies of the correspondence to all Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities members encouraging those jurisdictions to send similar indications of support for the Bylaw to the Province.

As stated in the draft bylaw, it is being "enacted for the purpose of managing and regulating Municipal Solid Waste and Recyclable Material within the Geographical Area of the GVS&DD [Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District] in a manner that advances the goals of the Plan [Integrated Solid Waste Resource Management Plan]". In this regard, likely the most significant aspect to the bylaw is the ability to regulate and/or restrict waste being hauled or removed from the region (i.e. Section 3.0).

We are advised that a significant amount of waste is being shipped out of the GVS&DD for low cost disposal in the United States. We are aware that Metro could lower tipping fees at its waste management facilities to compete for the waste and remove the economic incentive for cross-border disposal. We are also aware that tipping fees have a direct relationship to waste reduction, namely higher disposal costs drive greater application of the 3Rs. It is our observation that tip fees in the range of \$100 per tonne are necessary to achieve significant waste reduction. Furthermore, we are very encouraged by the positive economic benefit expected to result from waste reduction (i.e. Ministry of environment, Zero Waste business Case, Draft, May 2013; 62% to 81% diversion resulting in \$56 million and \$126 million of annual net economic benefit). Conversely, if local government is to compete for waste and adopt low tip fees, not only is waste reduction compromised but the net economic benefit of waste diversion is eroded.

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Over the last year, in the RDN, significant amounts of waste have begun to be shipped to the United States for low cost waste disposal. All indicators are that this trend will continue with strong potential for exponential growth. The solid waste function in the RDN is almost entirely funded through tipping fees. Our initial projections suggest that tipping fee revenues will drop by about 65% over a five year period due to waste being transported for low-cost disposal. If this is to happen, it will almost certainly compromise the waste diversion gains this regional district has achieved. These topics are currently being discussed through our Solid Waste Management Plan review process with the intention to explore the range of tools available to local government to advance the goals of the Plan.

The RDN believes that local government must have the ability to regulate the flow of municipal waste and recyclable materials as provided for in the *Environmental Management Act*. On this basis, the RDN respectfully encourages the Minister to approve Bylaw No. 280.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Stanhope", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joe Stanhope
Chair, Regional District of Nanaimo

cc: Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities Members
c/o Iris Hesketh-Boles