

TREE MANAGEMENT IN ELECTORAL AREAS

Regional Districts may use tree cutting permit powers to limit the cutting of trees in relation to areas affected by flooding, erosion, landslip or avalanche. However, Regional Districts do not have the broad tree management powers granted to Municipalities under the *Community Charter* to regulate, prohibit and impose additional requirements related to trees, such as removal and replacement of trees.

Many communities within Electoral Areas are experiencing higher population densities and increasing development. Protecting heritage trees, maintaining valued sightlines and proactively mitigating potential ecosystem impacts are important to communities.

Two recent resolutions requesting more tree management authority be given to Regional Districts have been made in the recent past (2015: Courtenay; 2019: Sunshine Coast). The Ministry response notes the issue is complex and Regional Districts face unique challenges that may require customized solutions; it will monitor issues as they arise. A resolution in this area may help put this issue on the provincial agenda.