



January 7, 2025

To the CRD Local Community Commission,

For fourteen years, a program to drop off invasive plants for chipping has been organized by the Transition Salt Spring Native Plant Stewardship Group.

The intent has been to:

- a) reduce the fire risks posed by these highly flammable species,
- b) provide chipped materials for agricultural purposes and
- c) educate the community about the risks of invasive plants.

This project now needs to transition into a more sustainable model for delivery. A 'user pay model' was tested in 2024, which covered half of the expenses. In 2025, \$3500 in additional funding is needed to deliver this program to the public.

We know that many islanders have come to depend on this program over the years, as we receive regular communications asking to confirm the dates for the service each year.

Most municipalities in BC offer some kind of similar service to residents, but as with many elements of our unique community, this task has fallen to the nonprofit sector to deliver.

Please consider our request for 2025 funding and consider how the CRD might support a program of this sort on an ongoing basis.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darlene Gage".

Darlene Gage
Executive Director