



June 22, 2017

Capital Regional District Board  
Capital Regional District  
625 Fisgard Street  
Victoria, BC V8W 1R7

Dear Chair Desjardin and Directors:

**Re: Invasive Species**

At the meeting held June 5, 2017, North Saanich Council considered the enclosed correspondence and adopted a resolution to ask the CRD Board to request a staff report to investigate the costs, benefits and implications of having the Regional Invasive Species Coordinator as an employee of the CRD.

On behalf of the Mayor and Council or the District of North Saanich, thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Kingsley".

Curt Kingsley  
Director of Corporate Services

Encl.

## Lisa Coburn

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**From:** Alice Finall  
**Sent:** Monday, June 5, 2017 11:50 AM  
**To:** Rob Buchan; Curt Kingsley; Lisa Coburn  
**Subject:** FW: Invasive Species and  
**Attachments:** CRISP Statement May 30-2017.pdf

Could we place this on the next Council agenda for possible action?  
Alice

**From:** Gord Baird [mailto:gord.baird@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 31, 2017 9:53 PM  
**To:** Moralea Milne <moralea@metchosin.ca>; metchosinmacs <metchosinmacs@gmail.com>; councillor@telus.net; Cynthia Day <cday@colwood.ca>; beth.burton-krahn@esquimalt.ca; LILLIAN SZPAK <healingspa@shaw.ca>; John <john.rogers007@shaw.ca>; Fred Haynes <fred.haynes@me.com>; Jeremy Loveday <jloveday@victoria.ca>; Ben Isitt (Councillor) <bisitt@victoria.ca>; Geoff Orr <orrcan@shaw.ca>; Ryan Windsor <rwindsor@crd.bc.ca>; dean.murdock@saanich.ca; Zeb King <kingzeb@shaw.ca>; Judy Brownoff <jbrownoff@crd.bc.ca>; Ann Baird <ann@eco-sense.ca>; Karen Burns <burnska@shaw.ca>  
**Cc:** Ken Williams <kwilliams@highlands.ca>; mayor@colwood.ca; Mike Hicks <directorjdf@crd.bc.ca>; Lisa Helps <mayor@victoria.ca>; Alice Finall <AFinall@northsaanich.ca>; Mayor Desjardins <barb.desjardins@esquimalt.ca>  
**Subject:** Invasive Species and

Hello Councilors (and Mayors),

As a municipal councilor, I sit on CRISP (Capital Region Invasive Species Partnership) along with staff from all your local governments. CRISP is the working group formed in 2010 by Parks, Public Works and Environmental Services staff from municipalities in the CRD. The success of CRISP has led to better organization and streamlined services that have benefited the local and regional governments by removing specialized tasks from their plate and having them performed by a central Invasive Species Coordinator. CRISP has repeatedly been approached by the Province (FLNRO, MOTI, BC HYDRO, BC Parks) and given regional funding to co-ordinate efforts to address Invasive Species. The provincial funding covers administrative costs, co-operative treatment, training and other.

Because the working group is not under the umbrella of the CRD or other form of NGO, they have had to rely on partnering with agencies outside the region to receive the provincial funds and administer payments including the CRISP Coordinator's part time salary. Long story short (and more detailed information attached), CRISP is at a cross roads where we need to have proper regional coordination that secures a coordinator, and allows our municipal staff to continue their amazing efforts in treating and controlling invasives in our area in a coordinated and efficient manner. Due to the existing model, we have not been able to offer the security that the one staff member requires for long term employment. CRISP has clearly demonstrated its value to the region, and it's an appropriate time to ask the CRD if they would consider placing the Regional Invasive Species Coordinator role (one half time employee) under their roof potentially utilizing one of their 1/2 FTE staff and accept the funding from the province to cover regional invasive species co-ordination.

I have investigated this with CRD staff to gauge their interest, capacity, and importance they see in invasive species management. Initial discussions indicate that they take invasive species very seriously and would welcome a request from the CRD Board to report back. With this I am writing a notice of motion for Highlands council and am looking for other municipalities to consider passing a resolution requesting the CRD Board request a CRD staff report to investigate this initiative including costs, benefits and implications of having the Regional Invasives Species Coordinator as an employee of the CRD. This could look as simple as expanding an existing staff member's duty who is already familiar with the topic.

As it stands this year, without a coordinator there will be a loss of funds coming to the region (Approx. \$60K), and each of our municipal staff will be required to perform more tasks like recording and submitting all the site treatments to the Provincial Database (involves staff training), vet their own contractors, arrange treatments, manage their own training, and handle the calls and requests from the public. If we can provide a strong municipal voice to the CRD Board to request this report from staff, I think CRD staff will demonstrate the financial implications of not having a regional approach, including the advantages of the CRD managing its co-ordination.

I am attaching a Statement that the CRISP Advisory (Saanich, Colwood, Highlands) has prepared.

Please, if you are willing to support a council resolution of this nature please let me know. If you are on the CRD Board and wish to bypass the council resolution stage, and would like to directly bring it forward I would be willing to sit down with the co-sponsors. A draft NOM is available upon request. I am willing to present at the council/CRD meetings if requested.

Attached is the CRISP statement sent to administrative staff and offers additional background info.

Thanks,  
Gord Baird  
Councillor, District of Highlands  
Phn: 250-478-2680  
Cell: 250-818-7986

### **CRISP Statement: May 2017**

CRISP is a partnership of all the local governments in the Capital Region (Vancouver Island area). Since 2010, CRISP has been providing regional communications, programs and more, to improve and support invasive species management throughout the Vancouver Island area of the CRD. A backgrounder on CRISP and the current situation is attached.

CRISP is currently at a cross-roads requiring assistance to be able to continue the valuable and successful services and programs provided to the region. Without a partnering, host organization, CRISP will no longer be able to:

- receive funding for the region (such as from the provincial government)
- continue the regional EDRR (Early Detection Rapid Response) program to address key species such as Knotweed, Giant Hogweed and European Fire Ants
- employ a coordinator to support regional priority invasive species management
- maintain our website of resource materials and contacts for invasive species reporting by the public
- facilitate training and support for local government staff

The result of the above would be a loss of current regional funding and the capacity of CRISP would be limited to information sharing meetings between members. The ground gained against priority invasive species threats would be lost and negative impacts increased throughout the region.

CRISP local government representatives of the Capital Region (Vancouver Island) request consideration of short and long-term solutions for CRISP:

1. Short-term, immediate support for CRISP administer funds and hire a CRISP Coordinator (staff or contractor), keeping the regional EDRR (Early Detection Rapid Response) program in place for this year, with the assistance of the current CRISP funding.
2. The CRD and municipalities look at a future long-term scenario to enable regional coordination of CRISP, supported by the CRISP membership and Advisory, to ensure continued prevention and reduction of the impacts and spread of priority invasive species in our region. To date, this coordination has successfully contributed to reducing and avoiding impacts including on infrastructure, private and public lands, ecosystems, human health and economic impacts

**CRISP members are anxious to secure an arrangement so that the region will not lose funding and will not lose a season of invasive species management. We would be pleased to meet or send further information, such as available resources, at your request. (CRISP Advisory c/o carolyn.richman@saanich.ca)**



## **Attachment: CRISP Backgrounder & the Current Situation**

CRISP began in 2010 as a partnership of local governments and other agencies working towards improved invasive species management in the region. CRISP's membership currently includes all local governments in the Capital Region (Vancouver Island), with representatives from each including both staff and a few elected officials. CRISP has received funding from the provincial government since 2012 to assist with invasive coordination, which increased in scope last year as well as pooled funding from many of the local government members. This funding has provided a CRISP Coordinator, a treatment program for priority invasive sites in the regional EDRR program (EDRR: Early Detection Rapid Response), the ability to provide public outreach and support and more.

Some of our measurable achievements have been:

- Increased funding and capacity for invasive management in the region
- Coordinated (increased) treatment and management of high priority early detection rapid response species, reducing spread and impacts
- Stronger regional messages and public outreach on invasive species
- Provision of safe disposal options for high risk species and improved standard disposal procedures
- CRISP priority invasive plant status list, improving management and priority setting
- Increased regional collaboration on invasives resulting in increased success in regional management overall
- A few First Nations partnerships on invasive species issues are in early stages
- Support for regional participation in provincial programs such as Plantwise (Horticulture/Gardening)

In addition, less measurable but extremely important is the increase in regional efforts to prevent the introduction of high-risk invasive species.

As CRISP is not an entity (but a local government partnership), CRISP has had to partner with NGOs to manage funds and hire contractors. The leadership and supervision of this has primarily fallen to the CRISP Advisory: currently representatives from the District of Saanich, the City of Colwood (and the District of Highlands). An additional challenge has included retaining qualified coordinators under the NGO partnership model.

CRISP is at a cross-roads as our (excellent) CRISP Coordinator recently left for a more secure employment. At this time CRISP has funding, but must establish a new model with which to retain and administer the funding and hire a Coordinator. The delivery of our 2017 regional EDRR program is at risk unless this can be resolved.

At this juncture, CRISP requires a new model to function under as it is not possible to have one or two local government representatives providing supervision and partnership management on behalf of all the other local governments. CRISP held a recent members meeting to discuss the issue, with a majority of local governments represented at the meeting. All members felt strongly that the services and regional EDRR program provided by CRISP are essential and all requested that a new regional model be developed to enable the coordination to continue.



Examples of current risks that CRISP is reducing/addressing:

- Knotweed spread in the region is still possible to address, whereas other regions that did not act fast enough are dealing with costly impacts such as to watercourses and riparian areas, impacts to infrastructure such as roads and building foundations.
- European Fire Ant spread in our region (from a few outbreaks) threaten land use and land values as well as ecological issues. This invasive ant, which spreads quickly, swarms and stings humans and animals.

**Invasive species** are non-native plant and animal species that can spread and cause impacts including environmental, economic and human impacts such as health and safety. Left unmanaged, invasive species spread and increase in density, requiring more resources to control and causing greater impacts.

**Invasive species management in BC** is led and supported by all levels of government as well as invasive species organizations (regional and provincial). Local government unique roles and responsibilities include public land management, private land regulatory tools, protection of local infrastructure, land use and local economic issues. Local governments also have a high priority in addressing local social and health impacts related to high priority invasive species.

**CRISP:** [crispinvasives.ca](http://crispinvasives.ca)

**BC Invasive Species Strategy:** [bcinvasives.ca/about/invasive-species-strategy-for-bc](http://bcinvasives.ca/about/invasive-species-strategy-for-bc)

**CRISP Membership (by agencies)**

City of Colwood  
City of Langford  
City of Victoria  
CRD Regional Parks  
CRD Water  
CRD Environmental Services  
District of Central Saanich  
District of Highlands

District of Metchosis  
District of North Saanich  
District of Oak Bay  
District of Saanich  
District of Sooke  
Township of Esquimalt  
Town of Sidney  
Town of View Royal