

File: 0220-01

August 8, 2018

Dear Chair Jolliffe and Electoral Area Service Committee Member;

**Re: Comox Valley swimming holes (Tsolum River)**

As the electoral area director for Electoral Area 'C', I write this letter to address many comments from members of the Public who have concerns regarding the steady decline of public access to traditional swimming holes, on Comox Valley rivers in general, and the Tsolum River in particular.

With the recent bout of hot summer weather, this issue is "Top of Mind" as families find more barriers to the River. Intentionally dug deep ditches, barricades, fences and private property signs are evident everywhere...even on land that is clearly public FLINRORD or MOTI right of way.

To this end I recently met with Ashley Cousens from the local MOTI office and went over some maps identifying some possibilities for potential partnerships between CVRD and Provincial ministries that would allow the public access and would also address MOTI's concerns around parking on the shoulders of the narrow country roads up the River in the Dove Creek Area.

After the opening of the new Tsolum River Bridge and the decommissioning of the Old "Bailey Bridge", the western approach became part of Lloyds-haven Farms further limiting parking and public access.

The City of Courtenay, who owns the approach on the east side, have deadened the road and left the many "no parking" signs that have long since served any purpose.

My request to the Electoral Areas Service Committee is that staff be directed to work with the City of Courtenay and the Provincial Ministries to establish parking areas and delineate public access points to the lower Tsolum River in the Dove Creek Area.

The river is a shared and valuable asset than needs to be available for the enjoyment of future generations. We must act now otherwise we will see the loss, whether conscious or unintended, of another Comox Valley Legacy.

Sincerely,

***E. Grieve***

Edwin Grieve,  
Director

*The views expressed in this letter are those of the director and do not necessarily reflect those of the corporation or the full board of directors.*