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CITY OF PORT ALBERNI

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MAYOR'S OFFICE

MAY 16 2016

VICTORIA, B.C.

May 11, 2016

David Suzuki Foundation
Vancouver Office
219 – 2211 West 4th Avenue
Vancouver BC V6K 4S2

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: Declaration of the Right to a Healthy Environment

At the Regular Council Meeting of May 9, 2016, Council for the City of Port Alberni endorsed the attached declaration of The Right to a Healthy Environment. This declaration is rooted in the City's longstanding commitment to a healthy environment and supported by Council's Strategic Plan and a number of other long-term plans, actions and strategies.

The City of Port Alberni looks forward to supporting the City of Victoria's resolution calling for a Federal Bill of Environmental Rights at the upcoming Federation of Canadian Municipalities Convention. It is our sincere hope that this resolution is endorsed and serves as yet another call to action for senior governments to establish and strengthen environmental rights legislation.

Thank you for advancing this initiative that has so clearly demonstrated the widespread public support for protecting our country's environmental well-being.

Yours truly
CITY OF PORT ALBERNI

Jake Martens
Deputy City Clerk/Communications Coordinator

c: Mayor Lisa Helps, City of Victoria



Declaration

The Right to a Healthy Environment

At a Regular Council meeting held May 9, 2016 Council for the City of Port Alberni declared:

WHEREAS the City of Port Alberni understands that people are part of the environment, and that a healthy environment is inextricably linked to the well-being of our community;

AND WHEREAS the David Suzuki Foundation Blue Dot Tour has inspired many Canadians to request that the right to a healthy environment be enshrined in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Port Alberni declares that:

All residents of the City of Port Alberni have the right to live in a healthy environment, including:

- The right to breathe clean air;
- The right to drink clean water;
- The right to consume safe food;
- The right to access nature;
- The right to know about pollutants and contaminants released into the local environment; and
- The right to participate in government decision-making that will affect the environment.

The City of Port Alberni recognizes its responsibility, within its jurisdiction, to respect, protect, and promote these rights and in so doing will continue to implement and improve its Corporate Plans, Strategies and By-laws to protect the local environment and support its residents' right to a healthy environment by undertaking actions such as, but not limited, to the following:

- consideration of the precautionary principle, with cost-effective measures, where threats of serious or irreversible damage to human health or the environment exist;

- *Taking into consideration full cost accounting which includes costs to human health and environment, when evaluating reasonably foreseeable costs of proposed actions and alternatives;*
- *Ensuring infrastructure and development projects protect the environment, including water quality;*
- *Addressing climate change by investigating further reductions in corporate greenhouse gas emissions and implementing adaptation measures;*
- *Promoting appropriate and responsible development, including responsibly increasing density, in accordance with the Official Community Plan;*
- *Promoting walking, cycling and public transit as modes of transportation in accordance with the City's Active Transportation Plan;*
- *Promoting access to food that is locally and sustainably sourced;*
- *Working with Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District to improve waste diversion, including recycling and composting, and waste reduction; and*
- *Establishing and maintaining accessible green spaces by providing high quality active and wilderness parks*

The City of Port Alberni shall review these objectives, targets, timelines and actions regularly, and evaluate progress towards fulfilling this declaration.

The City of Port Alberni shall consult with residents as part of this process.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT *the City of Port Alberni support the City of Victoria motion to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities calling for a Federal Bill of Environmental Rights.*