



Association of  
**SUMMER VILLAGES**  
OF ALBERTA

November 10, 2014

Honourable Kyle Fawcett  
Minister  
Environment and Sustainable Resource Development  
Legislature Office  
420 Legislature Building  
10800 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB  
Canada T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Fawcett:

Re: Resolution ASVA 2014-02  
Minimizing the Spread of Didymo

The Association of Summer Villages of Alberta (ASVA), one of the 3 municipal associations (AUMA, AAMDC, and ASVA) in the province, held their annual convention October 17 – 18<sup>th</sup> this year in Edmonton. At that time four resolutions were voted on by the membership.

There was strong support for Resolution ASVA 2014-02 which is appealing to the Government of Alberta to do what they can to minimize the spread of Didymo into our provincial lakes.

This resolution, as attached, was approved by the ASVA membership and is being forwarded to you for your consideration and response.

Sincerely,

**ASSOCIATION OF SUMMER VILLAGES OF ALBERTA**

**Peter Pellatt**  
**President**



Association of  
**SUMMER VILLAGES**  
OF ALBERTA

**ASVA Resolution – 2014 – 02**

**Minimizing the Spread of Didymo**

**Sponsor: Summer Village of Rochon Sands**

**WHEREAS** Didymo ( *Didymosphenia geminata*), also known as "rock snot", is a microscopic diatomic algae that can threaten aquatic habitat, biodiversity and recreational activity. It grows on the bottom of both flowing and still waters, making rocks slimy and slippery, reducing the feedstock of fish, and hampering them from spawning;

**WHEREAS** the primary way for didymo to be spread is by anglers, kayakers, canoeists, tubers, boaters and others engaging in water-based recreation. The microscopic algae clings to waders, boots, boats, clothing, lures, hooks, fishing line and other equipment and remain viable for several weeks under even in seemingly dry conditions.

**WHEREAS** Didymo has already been identified in several rivers and streams in Alberta such as the Red Deer, Bow and Old Man Rivers, and threatens to spread throughout the entire province in aggressive actions or not taken to prevent its spread;

**WHEREAS** knowledge of this harmful pest and how to prevent its spread is not well-understood by the recreational public;

**WHEREAS** felt soled footwear is particularly hard to clean, disinfect and dry to prevent the spread of didymo and are commonly used in fly fishing streams;

**WHEREAS** there are currently no known methods for controlling or eradicating didymo once it infests a water body;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Alberta Summer Village Association urge the Provincial Government to active steps to prevent the spread of didymo, including banning the sale and use of felt soled boots or waders, and also introducing a more proactive and prominent prevention campaign, and conducting random watercraft inspections.