

ALBERTA  
ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

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Office of the Minister  
MLA, Calgary-Klein

February 23, 2015

Mr. Peter Pellatt, President  
Association of Summer Villages of Alberta  
71 Ravenscrag Crescent  
Norglenwold AB T4S 1S5

Dear Mr. Pellatt:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peter".

Thank you for your November 10, 2014, letters forwarding resolutions that were passed by members of the Association of Summer Villages of Alberta at your recent conference. I am pleased to provide the following responses to these resolutions.

ASVA Resolution – 2014 – 01 – Dreissenid Mussel Invasion

Environment and Sustainable Resource Development shares the association's concerns about the need to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species into Alberta, including zebra and quagga mussels. The department is leading a provincewide aquatic invasive species program that includes five components – education and outreach, monitoring, rapid response planning, watercraft inspections, and policy and regulation. The Government of Alberta is taking action in all of these areas.

The department plans to seek amendments to the *Fisheries (Alberta) Act* to provide for a more robust prevention program, including mandatory watercraft inspections. These amendments should address the concerns and suggestions in the association's resolution.

In 2014, more than 3,600 boats were inspected at four voluntary inspection sites on four major highways. In the past two years, our government has intercepted 11 boats heading for Alberta that were fouled by mussels. The department is also continuing our Clean, Drain, Dry Your Boat awareness campaign, and is working on a rapid response plan for invasive mussels.

More than 70 Alberta water bodies were monitored in 2014 and the results were all negative for invasive mussels. The department will continue to work closely with stakeholders, including the Association of Summer Villages, to keep these mussels out of Alberta.

ASVA Resolution – 2014 – 02 – Minimizing the Spread of Didymo

Didymo (*Didymosphenia geminata*) is a relatively uncommon species of freshwater algae, but it has a widespread distribution at northern latitudes in North America, Europe, and elsewhere. Limited information is available on the environmental requirements of the species, but it is typically found in habitats with flowing water, such as rivers.

Since the 1990s, several examples of extensive Didymo blooms have been documented in Canada on the beds of rivers and streams on Vancouver Island, in Québec, and in Alberta. In general, the blooms occurred in rivers and streams with relatively low levels of nutrients and cool water temperatures. The scientific literature available suggests that Didymo is uncommon in lakes, or if present, Didymo may be derived from the river inflow. Based on the documented cases of blooms restricted to flowing water, it seems unlikely that blooms will be an issue for Alberta lakes.

ASVA Resolution – 2014 – 03 Management of Municipal Property – Waterfront

To ensure all Albertans have the opportunity to enjoy our lakes, Environment and Sustainable Resource Development is working to formalize a mooring policy. The department is also developing a disturbance standard to establish minimum placement criteria for docks for the use of public land under the Public Lands Administration Regulation.

In 2013, the department initiated a review of how other jurisdictions regulate dock and mooring usage and shared it with the Association of Summer Villages of Alberta. At the 2014 annual conference, department staff updated the association about our continued work to identify the core issues of mooring and dock placement that require policy solutions in Alberta. One of the options discussed included the potential for summer villages to have more control over the placement of mooring structures fronting their lands.

Our department will be asking stakeholders to provide feedback on a proposed policy that will lead to the creation of a disturbance standard for seasonal dock use. We are in the process of determining how these consultations will take place. As part of this process, we will explore options on how we can support municipalities.

Environment and Sustainable Resource Development appreciates the contribution of the Association of Summer Villages of Alberta and other lake partners in helping develop environmental policy and management direction. We look forward to continued dialogue and collaboration on issues that affect our lakes.

Sincerely,



Kyle Fawcett  
Minister