
Subject: FW: FW: Letter sent to Mayor and Council re invasive plant management

From: NWIPC Program Manager <manager@nwipc.org>

Sent: Monday, January 23, 2023 11:29:40 AM

To: Councillor Skakun, Brian <Brian.Skakun@princegeorge.ca>; Councillor Sampson, Kyle <Kyle.Sampson@princegeorge.ca>; Councillor Frizzell, Garth <Garth.Frizzell@princegeorge.ca>; Councillor Ramsay, Cori <Cori.Ramsay@princegeorge.ca>

Subject: Letter sent to Mayor and Council re invasive plant management

Hello, Councillors.

I am following up on a letter the Northwest Invasive Plant Council (NWIPC) sent to the Mayor and Council requesting reinstating the funding for invasive plant management (aka noxious weed control under the Weed Act of BC) within the City of Prince George. The NWIPC's intent is to have the initial letter put forward to Council for consideration in budget planning for this year. I have attached that letter to this email, as well.

In addition to the content of the letter, I'd like to put the issue of funding for invasive plants in the context of funding given to the NWIPC by the three other cities in the northwest. Both Kitimat (242 sq km) and Prince Rupert (224 km sq km) advance \$10,000 annually and have done so for a number of years. Terrace (74 sq km) advances \$9,000. These three cities view the management of high priority invasive plants important to the health of native ecosystems in their parks and natural spaces along with the economic and social (including human and animal health) impacts of no control. With the City being the largest in area (381 sq km) with valuable green spaces and well-used trails, the NWIPC is witnessing a large increase in the size of infestations of toxic plants and species that crowd out our native species. An example of this spread is very apparent in Cottonwood Park and the Heritage River Trail where the NWIPC and its crews from DART and previous to 2017, AiMHi, had been keeping Common tansy under control. In the past two years, it has increased in area and size and is spreading rapidly along parking areas, path edges and stream banks.

The NWIPC is requesting this issue be well-considered by the Council at your budget planning meetings for three reasons. The first has been mentioned above. The second is the social value of supporting training and meaningful work for individuals with intellectual challenges and addiction recovery. The third is the NWIPC's education and awareness activities within the city at large events such as the BC Northern Home Show, the BCNE and smaller events such as the Farmer's Market and Summerfest. In the past, the City was an active participant by helping to man the information booth or helping to offset the expenses of public awareness activities.

The NWIPC is respectfully requesting the City consider an annual invasive plant management and public education budget of \$18,300 - the level of funding received in 2019 and 2020.

Feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions.

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Penni Adams
NWIPC Program Manager
C: 778-349-6848

 **Northwest**
INVASIVE PLANT COUNCIL
Box 2052, Prince George, BC V2N 2J6
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I am privileged to live, play and work on the various traditional First Nations territories in BC's northwest.

January 5, 2023

City of Prince George
1100 Patricia Boulevard,
Prince George, BC
V2L 3V9

Attention: Mayor and Council

Re: Invasive Plant Management within the city boundary

Dear Mayor and Council,

The Northwest Invasive Plant Council (NWIPC) is requesting re-instating the budget item for managing high priority invasive plants (noxious weeds as listed in the *BC Weed Act*) within the City of Prince George (the City). Since 2008, the City had annually awarded funding for invasive plant management to the NWIPC. The amount of funding received in 2018 and 2019 was \$18,300 annually. That funding ceased in 2021. The funds previously awarded to the NWIPC provided training in invasive plant identification, data collection and mechanical treatment on high priority species; along with meaningful seasonal employment for individuals at risk or having intellectual challenges. It was rewarding for the NWIPC, the City and the public to see the workers and the results of their labours.

For the past two years, the NWIPC has received numerous calls from your constituents concerned about the increase in infestation size and the spread of invasive plants within the City, in particular, it's public parks and walkways. We have referred all calls to 311 as we are not aware if the City has had invasive plant management in place over the past two years.

At the 2022/2023 budget consultation meeting, the NWIPC presented to the Mayor and Council requesting re-instatement of the long-standing program managed by the NWIPC for the benefit of the City as well as AiMHi (prior to 2017) and D.A.R.T. (2018-2019). The matter was referred by Mayor Lyn Hall to the Director of Civic Operations. No further communication was forthcoming.

The NWIPC respectfully requests presenting this letter at the January 2023 Regular Council and that consideration be given to partnering with the NWIPC by approving funding for invasive plant management within the City. We are more than willing to be a delegation to Council to further expand on past accomplishments and the current state of invasive plant infestations in the City to support our request.

On behalf of the Northwest Invasive Plant Council (NWIPC),



Penni Adams, NWIPC Program Manager
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Cc: NWIPC Board of Directors
cityclerk@princegeorge.ca