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November 3, 2023

Mayor and Council  
City of Prince George

On behalf of the Recycling and Environmental Action Planning Society (REAPS), I wish to update Mayor and Council regarding the status of the relocation of our Growing Knowledge Community Compost Garden funding request.

As we detailed in our letter of August 24, 2022 and emphasized in our presentation to council May 31, 2023, REAPS found itself in a situation to secure space for an educational centre and office in which to continue our programs when forced to vacate the space at Lheidli T'enneh Memorial Park which we had occupied for 27 years. We had to continue delivering our educational and outreach events, while finding the time to devote to planning and obtaining funding for a replacement facility.

Following the September 11, 2023 council meeting staff report, Mayor and Council moved to include deliberation of our funding request in the 2024 budget review. We wish to continue to highlight the importance and urgency of our contribution request. REAPS supplied a cost breakdown for 2023/2024 operations (\$53K and \$45K respectively) in hopes that a portion of the contribution would be made in 2023 so that the Garden would be fully functional in the spring of 2024. As outlined in our September 12, 2023 clarification letter, the minimum amount sought for 2023 is \$29,000 to cover the cost of connecting water and electrical to the site.

We therefore wish to reiterate to Mayor and Council that the \$29,000 in requested funding is still needed in 2023 to move our project towards completion. The community is supporting REAPS and the Growing Knowledge Community Compost Garden project as shown by the support letters submitted to council to return a favorable outcome to our request.

The Growing Knowledge Community Compost Garden will continue to showcase to residents how to reduce waste and move towards a greener lifestyle.

We're confident of a successful 2024 operating year and completion of the Growing Knowledge Community Compost Garden project if the City demonstrates a timely financial commitment by funding the 2023 request.

Sincerely,

Joshua Kelly  
President