

Dear Pender Island Recycling Society

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment on a Solid Waste Management Plan. Both North Pender and South Pender must work with the challenge of new legislation regarding waste – both organic matter and recycling materials. Both islands also have the ongoing problem of what to do with our garbage and will require community involvement in discussing and finding solutions to the many problems that we are now facing. I support full community participation in the development of a solid waste management plan that is responsive to the needs of Pender residents and visitors.

According to provincial legislation, since 1973 the Capital Regional District has been responsible for solid waste disposal on the Penders. The CRD has supported to some extent our Recycling Depot and has regulated the collection and removal of garbage from the island. We are now at a critical point and I believe that it is essential that the CRD and the two Local Trust Committees work with the Recycling Society and those providing current collection services on the island to develop something that is “made on Pender” and will work for us.

The question of funding is obviously two-fold: one is funding for developing a plan and two is the funding of that plan. Through the years of work by the Recycling Society, we have a model for community-based decision-making and development. It would seem reasonable to me that the CRD would be financially responsible for a good portion of the planning and execution of the plan while the Recycling Society, with the cooperation and involvement of the Trustees and the CRD Director and the current collection service, would play a leadership role in the process.

The South Pender Island Official Community Plan has a proactive Solid Waste Disposal provision to provide guidance for trustees. This policy encourages measures to reduce solid waste generation and promotes and supports environmentally sensitive disposal methods. The South Pender Island Land Use Bylaw is currently under review which provides an opportunity to ensure that our bylaws are responsive to the recent changes regarding solid waste disposal related to recyclables, food scraps, composting & garbage.

In addition, the South Pender Official Community Plan includes the following under Solid Waste Disposal Services:

Advocacy Policies

d) The Capital Regional District is requested to continue monitoring the solid waste disposal needs of both South and North Pender Islands and to continue providing funding support for the North Pender Island Recycling Society’s depot that serves both islands.

We need a more inclusive, community-based process for discussion and resolution of these issues. I would certainly consider it a priority for our island.

Wendy Scholefield