

Submission for Howe Sound Forum May 4, 2018

Sea to Sky Clean Air Society- <http://seatoskyairquality.ca>

Prior to the SSCAS becoming a registered Society in 2010, members met on an ad-hoc basis as the Air Quality Coordinating Committee (AQCC) since 2002. This was, from the outset, an outgrowth of the Howe Sound Forum, and originally all members were elected officials or municipal staff. The AQCC worked collaboratively to develop the Sea-to-Sky Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) in 2007, which was updated in 2015.

The Sea-to-Sky airshed includes the communities surrounding Howe Sound including: Gibsons, Bowen Island, Keats Island, Gambier Island, West Vancouver, Lions Bay, Furry Creek, Britannia Beach, Squamish, Whistler, Pemberton, Mount Currie and D'Arcy.

The AQCC and subsequently SSCAS have had ongoing roles in air quality advocacy, education and policy development. As well, they have provided staffing for numerous initiatives, including:

1. Bike-to-School and Work weeks
2. Woodstove exchange program
3. Burn - it- Smart Workshops
4. Compute the Commute Transportation workshop (Squamish)
5. Interface fire mitigations convening (Whistler)
6. Provincial Open Burning Regulation Review (Squamish)
7. Air Quality Symposium (West Vancouver)- <http://seatoskyairquality.ca/march-air-quality-symposium-presentations/>
8. Idling Ambassador community outreach
9. Habitat Restoration through native species plantings (Eco-Connections Grants)

In addition, SSCAS has commented on air impacts of proposed developments- eg Burnco, Woodfibre LNG, Asphalt Plant Whistler.

It developed a template back yard and open burning protocol for adoption by member local governments, and crafted OCP/LUB language.

SSCAS has received funds from RBC Dominion in 2017 (\$1800) and 2018 (\$2000) for special programs. In 2017, this was earmarked for the AQ Symposium.

CURRENT CHALLENGES

SSCAS has seasonally restricted funding from MOE and member local government contributions. The latter have been declining and we are currently without the means to retain a new Executive Director, as Shannon Didier is moving on to pursue academic opportunities, as did her predecessor, Kim Slater.

Implementation of the AQMP is hampered by inadequate staffing, lack of authority to match the mandate, and low public/civic visibility. We are down to four board members, of which only one is local government staff (SLRD). There are currently no active politicians on the board.

PROPOSED AVENUES FORWARD

What happens to SSCAS will primarily be determined by the member Local Governments. One option, used elsewhere, is to establish a 'Roundtable' populated by government, corporate and citizen appointees. They would meet periodically and essentially determine the scope of actions to be undertaken. Examples are here:

<http://www.pgairquality.com>

<https://www.cvrld.bc.ca/DocumentCenter/View/70959/Cowichans-Regional-Airshed-Protection-Strategy---18-Nov-2015>

Alternately, SSCAS could revert to the AQCC, which would require ongoing financial and management support from the local governments.

The final option is disbanding, but that leaves no local bodies to uphold the AQMP and various OCP policies in member community legislation.

ACTION REQUEST

Please bring these proposed options forward for consideration at your respective Councils, and communicate with SSCAS by July 15, 2018. Please rank the preferences and indicate willingness for ongoing program support.

Thank you.

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