



DISTRICT OF METCHOSIN

File No. 0110-02

May 14, 2019

Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation
PO Box 9354
Unit 102-2957 Jutland Road
Victoria, BC V8T 5J9

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: Letter of Support for Metchosin Invasive Species Cooperative (MISC)

On behalf of Council and the District of Metchosin, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the Metchosin Invasive Species Cooperative (MISC) in their application to the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation for funding towards the purchase of 6 puller bears.

The Metchosin Invasive Species Cooperative is working with members of the District of Metchosin Parks and Trails Advisory Select Committee to eradicate English holly in all parks within the District of Metchosin. The puller bears have proven to be the easiest and most effective tool in removing English holly and volunteers have had great success in pulling large trees up to 15 feet in height.

English holly has become a serious invasive species due to its adaptability to grow in sun or shade and the ease with which its seeds are spread. Seedlings are commonly found mixed in with deciduous and coniferous forests along the edges of wetlands, and near residential areas around the South Coast of Vancouver Island. English holly grows rapidly, casting deep shade depriving native plants from sunlight and its root system compete with many native species for nutrients and water.

Council strongly supports the Metchosin Invasive Species Cooperative in their ongoing efforts to eradicate English holly. We encourage the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation to support this worthwhile cause.

Sincerely,

John Rands
Mayor