

June 6, 2020

Metchosin Invasive Species Cooperative (MISC)
c/o Neil West
449 Leefield Road, Victoria BC V9C 3Y2

Dear Neil

Re: Your Inquiry of May 24 (English Holly Eradication in Metchosin)

Thank you for your letter of May 24 and related follow-up communication.

The Metchosin Foundation wishes to acknowledge the contribution of the Metchosin Invasive Species Cooperative (MISC) to invasive plant species management in Metchosin. To this end, we are sharing this letter, via cc, with other agencies.

The Metchosin Foundation supports citizen involvement in the realm of environmental stewardship, including the removal of invasive species, where this is done in accordance with science and best practices and where the protection of sensitive species and ecosystems are taken into account.

MISC has raised particular concern about the proliferation of English holly in Metchosin and further identified that Matheson Lake Regional Park may be among the most affected (priority) areas of our District.

As we have seen with invasive species removal in other parks in our District, a combination of well-coordinated and sustained citizen effort, respectful volunteer engagement with pertinent authorities (e.g. CRD Parks) and respectful engagement with park users and other members of the general public has led to successful outcomes. Accordingly, we encourage MISC and the parties copied on this reply to identify ways in which the successful approaches deployed over many years in other parks might also be deployed in addressing the specific challenge of English holly proliferation.

Sincerely,

Carol Carman, Metchosin Foundation President

Cc: District of Metchosin: Mayor & Council; Metchosin Parks and Trails Advisory Committee; Metchosin Environmental Advisory Select Committee