



Tetrahedron Provincial Park and the SCRD's Chapman Lake Project

Factsheet February 8, 2018

1. **The Tetrahedron Area** is a high elevation park containing the headwaters of Chapman and Gray creeks. It is the Sunshine Coast Regional District's (SCRD) main water source area, providing drinking water for over 20,000 residents of the Sunshine Coast.
2. The **Tetrahedron Local Resource Use Plan (LRUP)** process was initiated in 1990 with representation from government ministries, local governments, logging companies and non-profit societies representing over 1000 local residents. After four years of extensive study and evaluation, the LRUP committee recommended the Tetrahedron Area should be legally protected;
3. The Tetrahedron Area was **designated as a "Class A" Provincial Park in 1994** under the *Protected Area Act and the BC Parks Act*. This is the highest level of protection for land in BC. The **purpose of the Tetrahedron Provincial Park** is threefold
 - a) Protect the region's most important water source area;
 - b) Protect the area's ecological features; and
 - c) Maintain low impact back country recreation;
4. The **SCRD had water rights** in place before the park was established, which continue. The rights include undertaking work to maintain infrastructure and withdraw water from Chapman Lake up to the originally permitted volume. The SCRD does not have a right to expand its infrastructure in the park;
5. The **BC Parks Act (BCPA) requires a Park Use Permit (PUP)** for any commercial activity to be undertaken in a park. A permit may only be issued if the activity *supports and/or enhances the purposes for which the park was created*;
6. Trenching and blasting work proposed for **the Chapman Expansion Project violates the BCPA criteria for activity in the park**. Therefore, the SCRD can't get a permit for the project;
7. Instead of re-focusing time and money on sustainable initiatives, **the SCRD intends to apply to have land removed from the provincial park** in order to execute the Chapman Expansion Project.
8. **Removing land from a 'Class A' Park is an extensive process** requiring public consultation to inform recommendations to the government. Ultimately, the BC Government would have to decide to bring an *Act* before the legislature, to vote on whether it should remove land from our Provincial Park.

SCCA Position on the Issues

The Sunshine Coast Conservation Association has a long history of working together with the SCRD and community to support drinking water planning and protection initiatives. The SCCA supports investigation and development of new water sources; development of storage capacity; installation of water meters; promotion of rain harvesting technology and public education. We support deployment of the siphon to draw down Chapman Lake in case of emergencies, while the SCRD implements plans and projects that will ensure long-term water sustainability for the Coast.

The SCCA supports all of the current water initiatives being implemented by the SCRD, except the Chapman Expansion Project.

SCCA Recommendation:

That the SCRD terminate the Chapman Expansion Project because it would:

- a) Devalue the source area;
- b) Provide a temporary solution and do nothing to ensure long-term water sustainability;
- c) Waste \$5 million that could be used to pay for water storage infrastructure; and
- d) Involve a lengthy provincial government process that is unlikely to succeed.

*To preserve the natural biodiversity of the Sunshine Coast region
for the present and future benefit of humanity and all life*