



Council Declaration

BLUE DOT MOVEMENT

WHEREAS the David Suzuki Foundation Blue Dot Movement has inspired many Canadians to request that the right to a healthy environment be enshrined in the Charter of Rights and Freedom through support of the following motion;

AND WHEREAS the District of Summerland recognizes that people are part of the environment, and that a healthy environment is inextricably linked to the well-being of our community;

AND WHEREAS the District of Summerland recognizes the mutual importance and interconnectedness of a healthy environment, a strong economy, and a healthy society as we move toward sustainability;

AND WHEREAS the District of Summerland recognizes that our world and all of its inhabitants are faced with the growing and increasingly urgent impacts of climate change, air and water pollution, and loss of biodiversity;

AND WHEREAS the District of Summerland recognizes that environmental protection is a fundamental value held by its citizens;

AND WHEREAS the District of Summerland, through the Official Community Plan (2015), Community Climate Action Plan (2011), Corporate Energy and Emissions Plan (2011), provides a strong policy foundation to pursue actions and initiatives that contribute to a healthy environment;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the District of Summerland endorse the following declaration:

1. All people have the right to live in a healthy environment, including the right to:
 - breathe clean air;
 - drink and access clean water;
 - consume safe and healthy food;
 - access nature;
 - know about pollutants and contaminants released into the local environment; and
 - participate in decision-making that will affect the environment.
2. The District of Summerland has the responsibility, within its jurisdiction, to respect, protect, fulfill, and promote these rights.
3. The District of Summerland shall apply the precautionary principle: where threats of serious or irreversible damage to human health or the environment exist, the District shall, within its jurisdictional authority, take cost-effective measures to prevent the degradation of the environment and protect the health of its citizens.
4. When evaluating reasonably foreseeable costs of proposed actions and alternatives, the District of Summerland will consider costs to human health and the environment.