



## Thompson-Nicola Regional District

Agenda No: 5.1

Mtg Date: Apr 27, 2015

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Department: Board Chair

March 27, 2015

To the Chair & Board of Region Districts in British Columbia

Delivered by email

To the Chair and Board:

Re: Biosolids Resolution

At the March 27, 2015 meeting of the Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD) Board of Directors, the following resolution was passed:

**That the following resolution, which was approved by the Board on February 26, 2015, be sent out to all other Regional Districts for information:**

**“WHEREAS the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Health are responsible for reviewing and approving biosolid composting facility permits and land application notifications under the Organic Matter Recycling Regulation and the Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for administration of the Agricultural Land Commission Act;**

**AND WHEREAS, due to these activities being carried out within the Agricultural Land Reserve, the interjurisdictional importation of biosolid waste materials is being authorized and land application and composting facilities are being permitted without a public consultation process in locations where residents and the environment may be adversely affected by potential health risks, noise and odour nuisances, property value reductions and loss of community well-being:**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province form a committee including local government representatives to examine and make recommendations for changes to the Provincial biosolid review process and changes to the content in the Organic Matter Recycling Regulation and Agricultural Land Commission Act that govern the biosolid regulatory process in the Province of British Columbia.”**


**CARRIED**

In the last few months, an issue has arisen in the Nicola Valley regarding a biosolids composting facility. The application of biosolids for regular farming practices has lawfully occurred in the TNRD for many years. The issue that is of concern now is the commercial composting of biosolids on properties that are relatively small and close in proximity to other residents. The TNRD is currently reviewing and amending its bylaws to determine which can potentially be done to deal with the siting issues that are leading to these facilities being established in too close of proximity to other residential properties. The changing of TNRD bylaws would not necessarily impact the Province. The TNRD passed the resolution (above) and the resolution has been forwarded on to the Southern Interior Local Government Association (SILGA). If SILGA delegates debate and endorse the resolution, it will be forwarded on to the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) for consideration.

At the present time, the TNRD Board strongly feels that the issues occurring in the Nicola Valley may occur in other areas in the near future and that the Province should review current regulations and standards in anticipation of continued issues. The TNRD's recommended way to address future situations of this nature is for the Province form a committee including local government representative to examine and make recommendations for changes to the Provincial biosolid review process and changes to the contents in the Organic Matter Recycling Regulations and Agricultural Land Commission Act that govern the biosolid regulatory process in British Columbia.

Thank you for taking the time review this letter. Should the opportunity arise in the future to support TNRD's recommendation that the Province form a committee to address the issues mentioned above, we would respectfully request that your Board do so.

Yours truly,



John Ranta, Chair  
Thompson-Nicola Regional District