

City of Nanaimo Declaration The Right To A Healthy Environment

Whereas the **City of Nanaimo** understands that people are part of the environment, and that a healthy environment is inextricably linked to the well-being of our community;

The **City of Nanaimo** finds and declares that:

1. All people have the right to live in a healthy environment, including:

The right to breathe clean air

The right to drink clean water.

The right to consume safe food.

The right to access nature

The right to know about pollutants and contaminants released into the local environment.

The right to participate in decision-making that will affect the environment

2. The **City of Nanaimo** has the responsibility, within its jurisdiction, to respect, protect, fulfill and promote these rights.
3. The **City of Nanaimo** shall apply the precautionary principle: where threats of serious or irreversible damage to human health or the environment exist, the **City of Nanaimo** shall take cost effective measures to prevent the degradation of the environment and protect the health of its citizens. Lack of full scientific certainty shall not be viewed as sufficient reason for the **City of Nanaimo** to postpone such measures
4. The **City of Nanaimo** shall apply full cost accounting: when evaluating reasonably foreseeable costs of proposed actions and alternatives, the **City of Nanaimo** will consider costs to human health and the environment.
5. By Dec 31st 2016, the **City of Nanaimo** shall specify objectives, targets and timelines and actions the **City of Nanaimo** will take, within its jurisdiction, to fulfill residents' right to a healthy environment, including priority actions to:
 - a. Ensure equitable distribution of environmental benefits and burdens within the municipality, preventing the development of pollution "hot spots";
 - b. Ensure infrastructure and development projects protect the environment, including air quality;

- c. Address climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and implementing adaptation measures;
- d. Responsibly increase density;
- e. Prioritize walking, cycling and public transit as preferred modes of transportation;
- f. Ensure adequate infrastructure for the provision of safe and accessible drinking water;
- g. Promote the availability of safe foods;
- h. Reduce solid waste and promote recycling and composting;
- i. Establish and maintain accessible green spaces in all residential neighbourhoods.

The **City of Nanaimo** shall review the objectives, targets, timelines and actions every five (5) years, and evaluate progress towards fulfilling this declaration.

The **City of Nanaimo** shall consult with residents as part of this process.

6. And be it further resolved that the MUNICIPALITY call on the Province of British Columbia to enact a provincial environmental bill of rights to fulfill the right of every resident to live in a healthy environment by supporting favourable consideration of this matter at the Union of BC Municipalities 2015 Convention.