

Dear Mayor Jack and Councillors

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my deep concern about the ongoing infestation of spruce budworm in the Whistler area, and the urgent need for immediate action to mitigate its impact on our forests. If left unchecked, this infestation could lead to widespread tree mortality, with far-reaching consequences for our local environment, wildlife, and economy.

As you are likely aware, the spruce budworm (*Choristoneura fumiferana*) has been spreading rapidly across the region, severely affecting the health of our forests. This pest not only threatens the ecological balance of our environment but also poses a significant fire risk. As the infested trees die off, they will create an increase in dead wood, which could act as additional fuel in the event of a wildfire. Given the growing wildfire risks in British Columbia, particularly in the wake of our increasingly dry summers, this only compounds the danger to our community and the surrounding natural areas.

The loss of these trees would not only diminish the beauty of our landscapes but also impact critical ecosystem services such as air and water filtration, wildlife habitat, and carbon sequestration. Further, the accumulation of dead and dying trees will make it more difficult to control potential wildfires, which could have devastating consequences for public safety and property.

I strongly urge you to prioritize action to mitigate the spread of spruce budworm and reduce the associated wildfire risk. Specific measures that could be taken include:

- **Enhanced monitoring and surveying** of affected areas to assess the scale and movement of the infestation.
- **Strategic use of biological controls** such as releasing natural predators or parasitoids to reduce the budworm population.
- **Public awareness campaigns** to educate residents about the infestation and encourage reporting of affected trees.
- **Collaboration with forestry experts** to explore safe and effective interventions, such as pheromone traps or targeted insecticide applications, where necessary.
- **Active management of deadwood** to reduce the fire hazard posed by dying trees.

The impacts of this infestation on our forests will be long-lasting unless we act now. I trust that you understand the urgency of this situation, and I sincerely hope that the Municipality of Whistler will take immediate and effective steps to protect our environment, our

community, and the natural resources that are vital to our way of life. If you are already taking action I would encourage you to share the plan with our community.

Thank you for your attention to this pressing matter. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further or offer assistance in any way.

Yours sincerely,

Andrea Mueller

[REDACTED]

Whistler, BC

[REDACTED]