



File No.: 6400 (Gabriola Ecological Protection Zone Project)

DATE OF MEETING: September 14, 2023  
TO: Gabriola Island Local Trust Committee  
FROM: Stephen Baugh, Planner 2  
Northern Team  
COPY: Renée Jamurat, Regional Planning Manager  
SUBJECT: Snuneymuxw Capacity Agreement for Ecological Protection Zone Project (Proposed Bylaw No. 313)

## RECOMMENDATION

- 1. That the Gabriola Island Local Trust Committee request staff to prepare an agreement between the Chief Administration Officer, on behalf of the Local Trust Committee and the Snuneymuxw First Nation, for capacity for work of up to \$2000 from the Ecological Protection Zone Project budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, to support Snuneymuxw staff to review the Ecological Protection Zone project and proposed bylaws with Islands Trust Planning staff.**

## REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to ask the LTC for direction to use project funds from the Ecological Protection Zone to engage with Snuneymuxw First Nation through a Capacity Agreement. This will result in the project budget being used to support Snuneymuxw First Nation in participating in a review of the Ecological Protection Zone Bylaw No. 313, and providing feedback.

Staff are recommending the LTC request staff to prepare a Capacity Agreement to support Snuneymuxw First Nation staff to review the Ecological Protection Zone Project and proposed bylaws with Islands Trust planning staff and that the LTC endorse the release of up to \$2000 from the project budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

## BACKGROUND

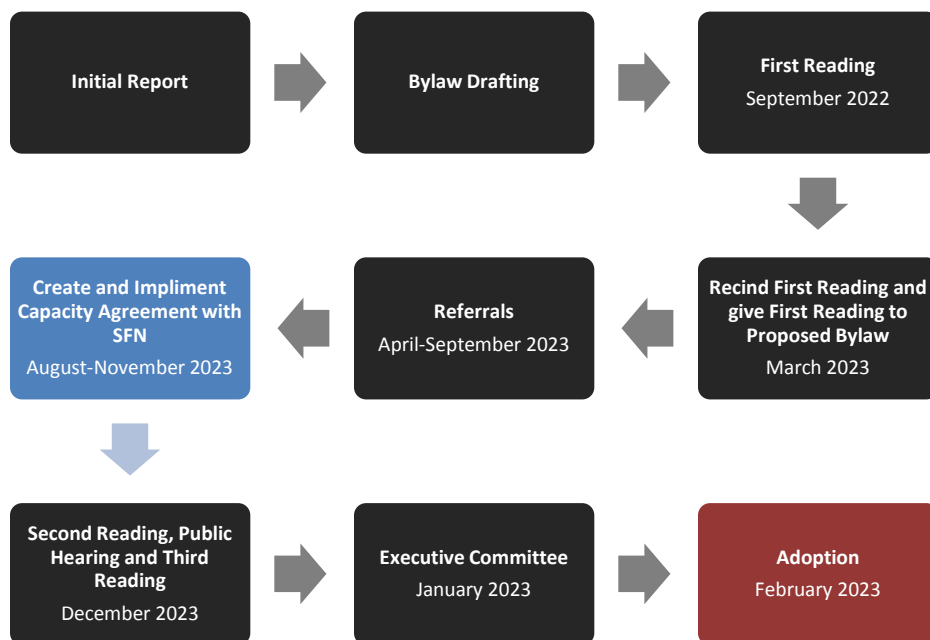
Following First Reading of Bylaw No. 313 in March of this year, the LTC requested staff refer the bylaw to the Islands Trust Conservancy, Regional District of Nanaimo and Snuneymuxw First Nation. Referrals were sent and staff have received responses from the Regional District of Nanaimo and Islands Trust Conservancy. However, Snuneymuxw First Nation has not responded to the referral. They have requested that a referral fee be paid. Although Islands Trust does not pay referral fees, an opportunity exists to engage with Snuneymuxw First Nation through a Capacity Agreement that would use the project budget to support Snuneymuxw First Nation for their time and expertise in providing input into the proposed bylaw.

## ANALYSIS

### Issues and Opportunities

Staff understand that First Nations are often inundated with referrals of all kinds from governments and agencies with proposals that impact their territory. This creates a challenge as they have experienced limited capacity to review referrals, and provide meaningful feedback. By providing a portion of the project budget through this agreement to Snuneymuxw First Nation there is an opportunity to support their capacity to engage with this project and provide thoughtful feedback.

### Timeline



### Rationale for Recommendation

A Capacity Agreement will allow Islands Trust to support Snuneymuxw First Nation staff to review the Ecological Protection Zone Project and the proposed bylaw in a meaningful way. Offering this budget may also communicate a desire on the part of the LTC to meaningfully engage with Snuneymuxw First Nation on this project.

## ALTERNATIVES

The LTC may consider the following alternatives to the staff recommendation:

### 1. Receive for information

The LTC may receive the report for information. If this option is selected staff will bring a report to the LTC summarizing the referral responses that were received and providing options for how the LTC could proceed with the project.

## NEXT STEPS

If the LTC proceeds with the staff recommendation, staff will draft a Capacity Agreement letter and present it to Snuneymuxw First Nation. Once all parties have signed the agreement, work will then begin with Snuneymuxw. Staff can provide updates the next LTC meeting on the progress of the agreement.

Submitted By:	Stephen Baugh, Planner 2	August 16, 2023
Concurrence:	Renée Jamurat, RPP MCIP, Regional Planning Manager	August 30, 2023