

From: [TOSL Reception](#)
To: [Vangie Wiseman](#)
Subject: FW: Aquatic invasive species
Date: July 25, 2019 11:39:03 AM
Attachments: [image54da7d.PNG](#)

TOSL Reception
Reception



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From: Gaye Warthe <gwarthe@mtroyal.ca>
Sent: Thursday, July 25, 2019 11:12 AM
To: aep.minister@gov.ab.ca
Cc: jeff.ludwig3@icloud.com; TOSL Reception <reception@sylvanlake.ca>; Innisfail.SylvanLake@assembly.ab.ca; Donna Gardin <dgardin@shaw.ca>
Subject: Aquatic invasive species

Good morning Minister Nixon,

My sister, Donna Gardin, and myself are writing to you on behalf of my family, with concerns about the lack of a plan to address aquatic invasive species in Alberta lakes. I have copied the Mayor of Sylvan Lake, the Mayor of the Summer Village of Norglenwold at Sylvan Lake and the MLA for Sylvan Lake on this email regarding this serious issue.

My family have been residents at Sylvan Lake in the Summer Village of Norglenwold since 1958. During that time we have seen many changes occur in the community and in the ecology of the lake. Similar to many residents in the area, we are deeply concerned about the lack of action to protect the lake and the threat this poses to the ecology of the lake and to the sustainability of Sylvan Lake as a thriving community.

As residents of a summer village we are aware of the risks to the ecology of the lake posed by the Quagga and Zebra mussel and the Eurasian Watermilfoil.

(see <https://www.albertaparks.ca/albertaparksca/science-research/aquatic-invasive-species/>)

We have been provided with educational materials and encouraged to take precautions to protect the lake. However, this approach is haphazard at best, as it addresses only the boats owned by residents and not the many boats belonging to the public, who also access the lake. It is also in stark contrast to lakes under the management of the federal government, where in addition to educational materials, all boats require an inspection prior to being given access to the lake.

Our concerns are justified. We have seen invasive species destroy many lakes in provinces across Canada and in Alberta, where we have so few lakes, we should be taking additional precautions to protect this precious resource. Just this week within a period of 1 hour, 20 boats were loaded into the lake at one uncontrolled road allowance. Any one of them could have posed a serious threat to the ecology of the lake. This is unacceptable.

We urge you to develop legislation requiring lake communities to inspect all boats before they are given access to the lake. In the short term, working with lake communities to develop controlled and monitored access to lakes would go a long way towards protecting our waterways. Charging a fee for the service would result in a public launch that would be revenue generating and costs for a single boat launch at Sylvan Lake could be recovered within a relatively short period of time.

We would like to hear from you or your office with a response to our concerns. The previous government did not make strides in protecting Albert lakes. This is an opportunity for the current government to be a leader on environmental issues and for the town of Sylvan Lake to distinguish itself as an environmental steward.

Thank you for your anticipated interest and action.

Gaye Warthe and Donna Gardin

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