



ILLEGAL DUMPING STRATEGY 2020-2022



gathet
REGIONAL DISTRICT

Let'sTalkTrash.ca

WHAT IS WASTE?

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1 Definitions

Illegal dumping is the unlawful deposit of waste onto land, including waste dumped, tipped or otherwise deposited onto private or public land where no license or approval exists to accept such waste. Illegal dumping varies from small bags of garbage in an urban setting to large scale dumping of materials in isolated areas. Dumped waste can include household garbage, mattresses, furniture, fridges, construction and demolition waste, yard and garden waste, hazardous materials, and abandoned vehicles.

Illegal dumping persists in all shapes and sizes. Below are some common examples of illegal dumping in the qathet Regional District (qRD):

1. Litter - loose refuse or recyclable materials that are deposited, or discarded in an open place, such as highways, parks and trails.
2. Uncovered loads - unsecured material that falls out of a vehicle while in transit to a solid waste facility.
3. Unauthorized disposal at waste disposal sites - refuse or recyclable materials dumped at solid waste facilities outside of hours of operation.
4. Transient encampments within the region - waste and belongings discarded when occupants move on.
5. Crown Land - out of sight areas to avoid detection, items such as construction and demolition debris (drywall, shingles, lumber, asbestos), large appliances, furniture, household garbage, yard waste, abandoned vehicles and recreation vehicles.
6. Private Property - out of sight areas to avoid detection, items such as construction and demolition debris (drywall, shingles, lumber, asbestos), large appliances and furniture, household garbage and yard waste.

2 Background

Illegal dumping is a pervasive issue in the province of British Columbia and the qRD is not an exception. As regional districts develop and implement regional solid waste management plans the issue of illegal dumping remains a growing concern. Illegal dumping negatively impacts our communities socially, environmentally and economically. It is often unclear whom to contact to address the clean-up and enforcement of illegal dumping.

This three-year strategy serves to define illegal dumping and describe the types and locations of illegal dumping. It also identifies the different levels of government that deal with illegal dumping and the roles and responsibilities of each as well as efforts to date. The qRD 2017 Solid Waste Management Plan that was approved by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, proposes to review the regional districts efforts to date, review what other local governments are doing and develop a strategy moving forward.

2.1 What are we already doing?

Current initiatives that the qRD has implemented to address illegal dumping are the annual “Trash Bash”, a collection event that focuses on cleaning up the backwoods and resource roads and the “Shoreline Cleanup” initiative that provides funding for coastline and beach cleanup efforts. These volunteer-based events tackle illegally dumped waste and litter. In addition, the qRD promotes the Trash Out app where residents and outdoor groups can report dumping locations. At this time, however, there is no qRD budget allocated to follow up these reports with timely cleanup and/or enforcement measures.

Representatives of the qRD have engaged with local governments on Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast through the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) to discuss how to tackle illegal dumping and develop a common set of tools. In 2018, the AVICC created an on-line video that targeted illegal dumping and promoted the Trash Out app and the Report All Poaches and Polluters (RAPP) line as two reporting tools that residents can use to take-action.

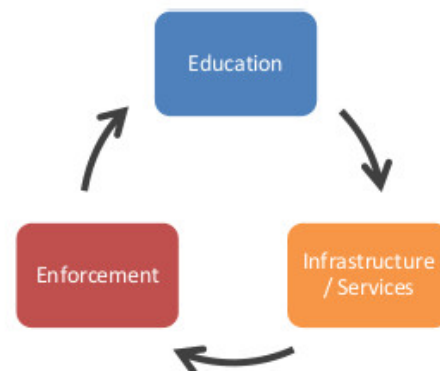
The qRD, via the Let’s Talk Trash team has started to promote the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) “Adopt a Highway” program. To date, seven 2km sections of Highway 101 have been “adopted” by local volunteer groups that cover areas to the north and south of the City of Powell River. The “Adopt a Highway” program offers organizations and volunteer groups the opportunity to contribute to their community and Province. Groups “adopt” a section of provincial highway to carry out or sponsor activities such as landscape beautification, litter pickup and identifying and reporting invasive plant species. All resource material, support tools, transportation of collected debris and tipping fees are covered by MoTI.

A collaborative approach is proposed to develop the qRD-wide illegal dumping strategy that will harness the collective resources available within the qRD. The development of this strategy led by the qRD will additionally seek participation from:

- City of Powell River
- Tla’amin Nation
- Ministry of Environment Conservation Officers
- Forest companies, tenure and land owners
- Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations
- Backcountry and ocean user groups (mountain hikers/bikers, fishermen, divers, paddlers, etc.)
- BC Hydro
- BC Parks
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans

3 Litter & Illegal Waste Management Strategy

To effectively deal with litter and illegal waste, a comprehensive qRD-wide strategy has been created to focus on a proactive approach. It is based on three fundamental pillars – education, infrastructure, and enforcement. The strategy outlines existing actions and proposed new actions, to encourage and support the community in preventing litter, and to reduce the occurrences of illegal dumping of waste. A detailed set of recommendations has been developed for implementation over a three - year period inclusive of 2020 through 2022.



3.1 Recommendations

Action #	Action description
1.0	Development of bylaw and enforcement procedures
1.1	Create a regulatory illegal dumping bylaw (or amend existing) that is enforceable region-wide with a set fine amount containing specific language that holds the owner/creator/generator responsible and accountable for illegal waste should any identifying material be found.
1.2	Litter and illegal waste audit follow-ups conducted by designated Enforcement Officers within their jurisdiction to catch offenders in the act, follow-up with incidents and complaints.
1.3	Cameras in hot spots. Investigate the possibility of adding cameras and any required and approved signage in areas that have been known for illegal dumping. The cost for the motion sensor cameras (\$200-\$500) and monitoring of cameras would be the responsibility of each jurisdiction. Conservation Officers will follow-up with reported camera footage.
2.0	Education, awareness and campaigns
2.1	Training sessions with staff. The qRD via Let's Talk Trash (LTT) will provide ongoing training to qRD, City and Tla'amin Nation clerical and bylaw staff so they are involved in the development of the new bylaw regulations. Additionally, LTT will provide the staff with information on all local recycling and composting programs so that staff can help to educate residents on how to responsibly dispose of their waste.
2.2	Pamphlet/brochure development. A pamphlet will be developed and provided to residents for reference on household hazardous waste, recycling depots, bylaws and associated penalties.
2.3	Volunteer awareness. The qRD values the efforts of volunteers and will continue to advertise and support the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure's Adopt-a-Highway throughout the community.
2.4	Trash Bash community cleanup event. The annual qRD community cleanup will continue to take place on a reoccurring basis.
2.5	Shoreline Cleanup initiative. Continuing to support funding of the 'Shoreline Cleanup' initiative positively contributes to decreasing the amount of refuse found in the marine environment. Much of this material floats into our region and is detrimental to the health of the

	marine environment and ultimately human health. The qRD will provide annual reports of tonnage and km's of coastline cleaned to support elected officials in lobbying for future funding opportunities through upper tier government to assist cleanup efforts.
2.6	Ongoing community engagement. The qRD will promote the regional Illegal Dumping Strategy and involve stakeholders and residents in the process.
2.7	Signage. Report All Poachers and Polluters (RAPP) signs can be placed in 'hot spots' or known dumping areas by those who have jurisdiction over the property.
3.0	Tracking and reporting
3.1	Continued promotion of the TrashOut app. This free smartphone app allows for easy reporting of waste sites that are GPS located onto an overview map providing valuable information for cleanup events.
3.2	Report All Poachers and Polluters (RAPP). This reporting system offered through the Conservation Officer Service is a key reporting system that offers direct follow-up with complainants and also allows for residents to report anonymously.
3.3	Mapping of problem sites. Compile information from the TrashOut app/map, reports through the RAPP line and communication with the Forest Service into a 'master' map that identifies problem sites.
3.4	Compiling organizational cleanup costs. The qRD can lead an annual reporting of associated costs across all different agencies and organizations to provide a clear picture of how much our region is spending to clean up illegally dumped material. This information can provide a baseline and annual vital signs metric on the occurrence of illegal dumping in our region.
4.0	New education program opportunities
4.1	Slogan and campaign. A marketing and educational campaign can be developed to create awareness around litter and illegal waste. Using positive campaign messaging and promoting available free, local recycling programs is recommended as well as community based social marketing to foster sustainable behavioural changes.
4.2	Fast food waste. The qRD through LTT can investigate opportunities for fast food businesses to participate in the Illegal Dumping Strategy and encourage positive marketing that dissuades the littering of to-go packaging.
5.0	Public space waste management
5.1	Public space recycling bins. Investigate the possibility of adding recycling bins to wherever garbage receptacles are located along roadsides, streetscapes and in parks where there is a caretaker or staff regularly on site. The qRD, City of Powell River and Tla'amin Nation would be responsible for programs and maintenance in their jurisdictions.
5.2	Public space organics bins. Investigate adding organic bins beside garbage bins that generate high volumes of organic waste where there is a caretaker or staff regularly on site and once the qRD region establishes a local composting facility. The qRD, City of Powell River and Tla'amin Nation would be responsible for programs and maintenance in their jurisdiction.

5.3	Pet waste program. Review opportunities for pet waste collection and processing options to prevent the littering of pet waste and pet waste plastic bags in the environment. The qRD, City of Powell River and Tla'amin Nation would be responsible for programs and maintenance in their jurisdiction.
6.0	Government Advocacy
6.1	Federal and Provincial Government Advocacy. Advocate to upper tiers of government wisely and strategically when the opportunity presents itself. Collaborate with partner Regional Districts and Municipalities through the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) and British Columbia Product Stewardship Council (BCPSC) to advocate for increased regulation, oversight and enforcement of materials allowed in the environment.

3.2 Proposed implementation schedule

Proposed Schedule	2020	2021	2022
1.0 Development of bylaw and enforcement			
1.1 Creation/amendment of a regulatory illegal dumping bylaw			
1.2 Litter and illegal waste audit follow-ups			
1.3 Investigate the possibility of cameras in hot spots.			
2.0 Education, awareness and campaigns			
2.1 Training sessions with qRD, City and Tla'amin Nation staff			
2.2 Pamphlet/brochure development			
2.3 Volunteer awareness			
2.4 Trash Bash community cleanup event			
2.5 Shoreline Cleanup initiative			
2.6 Ongoing community engagement			
2.7 Signage			
3.0 Tracking and reporting			
3.1 Continued promotion of the TrashOut app			
3.2 Report All Poachers and Polluters (RAPP)			
3.3 Mapping of problem sites			
3.4 Compiling organizational cleanup material volumes and costs			
4.0 New program opportunities			

4.1 Slogan and campaign			
4.2 Fast food waste			
5.0 Public space waste management strategy			
5.1 Public space recycling bins			
5.2 Public space organics bins			
5.3 Pet waste program			
6.0 Government Advocacy			
6.1 Federal and Provincial Government Advocacy			

	Planning/Design Phase		Implementation Phase
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4 Organizations Involved in Enforcement

Location	Organization	Legislation/Regulation	Enforcement Tools	Cleanup
Crown Land	Ministry of Environment Conservation Officers Service	Environmental Management Act & Water Sustainability Act	Ticketing Administrative penalty	When there is immediate environmental risk eg. Gas spilling into a creek.
Forests and Water Bodies	Forestry, Lands and Natural Resource Management – Compliance & Enforcement Officers	Environmental Management Act, Lands Act, Water Act, Park Act, Wildlife Act, Forest Act	Ticketing Administrative penalty	When there is immediate environmental risk
Highways and Right of Ways	Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure	Transportation Act	No authority to issue tickets	Budget in Highway Maintenance Agreement
All Regions	RCMP	Environmental Management Act	Ticketing	N/A
Regional District Facilities	qathet Regional District Operations	N/A	No authority to issue tickets	qRD parks/operational staff

City of Powell River	Bylaw Officers	-Property Maintenance and Standards Bylaw -Traffic bylaw infraction or trespass -Sanitary Sewer and Storm Drain Source Control Bylaw	Ticketing	City Public Works or Parks crews Property owner
Private Property	Land owner	N/A	Civil litigation	Property owner
Tla'amin Lands	Tla'amin Nation Enforcement Officer	3 laws; Land Law, Environmental Protection Law and Enforcement and Ticketing Law	Ticketing	Tla'amin Nation Public Works crew

Environmental Management Act

The Conservation Officers Service (COS) and the Compliance and Enforcement (C&E) branch have the ability to ticket for infractions under the Environmental Management Act. Section 6 of the Environmental Management Act states that “a person must not introduce waste into the environment in such a manner or quantity as to cause pollution.” Illegally dumped material is generally viewed as pollution, but the Environmental Management Act requires there to be immediate risk to the environment in order for the COS to act. Illegally dumped material such as drywall and flooring containing asbestos, used oil, appliances containing refrigerant or equipment containing mercury or lead also pose a hazard to human health. When the perpetrator of illegal dumping can be identified, the COS can require that they clean up the site. In those cases where the perpetrator is unknown and there is no immediate environmental risk, the illegal dumped material will likely remain as neither COS or C&E are responsible for cleanup.

RAPP Line

The Conservation Officers Service operates the R.A.P.P. (Report All Poachers and Polluters) 24-hour tip line and online service. The toll-free number and website allow the public to report poaching and illegal dumping (pollution). This is the primary reporting mechanism for illegal dumping in the Regional District. The Ministry of Environment is responsible for the hotline and data regarding illegal dumping that is collected through the R.A.P.P line.

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

In British Columbia, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) is responsible for the maintenance of highways. As such, MOTI is responsible for managing waste deposited along the highways, ditches and right of ways. In the qRD, Capilano Highway Services is contracted by MOTI to preform litter and graffiti clean-up along the highways and dispose of any illegally dumped material through the Highway Maintenance Agreement.

qathet Regional District

The qathet Regional District Operational Services department is responsible for illegal dumping on Regional District properties and charges the clean-up costs to that property's Operations and Management budget. The Regional District does not enforce illegal dumping on Regional District owned properties. If Illegal dumping takes place at the Powell River Regional Cemetery (within City jurisdiction) the Regional District operations staff would contact the City Bylaw Officer. If Illegal dumping takes place on crown land that the Regional District leases, such as Craig Park, Regional District operations staff would clean-up the material and could follow up with a Conservation Officer if evidence is found.

City of Powell River is responsible for illegal dumping within the City boundaries. The Property Maintenance and Standards Bylaw prohibits the accumulation of rubbish on private property. When the City receives a complaint, a Bylaw Officer will attend the property and require that the rubbish be removed. A ticket could be issued, as well as an order for clean-up. Council can also issue a remedial action requirement for clean-up. If rubbish has been dumped on someone else's land without their permission, upon receiving a complaint, the City would contact the land owner who is responsible for removing the garbage. If someone has dumped garbage in a City park, or for example, the end of a no thru road, then the City Public Works crews, or City Parks crews, or both, get involved in the clean-up. This could result in a traffic bylaw infraction, or trespass and civil proceedings in small claims court to recoup costs. There could also be an infraction of the Sanitary Sewer and Storm Drain Source Control Bylaw if someone unlawfully discharges into a storm drain, ditch, sewer system etc.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) is responsible for investigating calls for service related to littering or illegal dumping however options are limited. The only enforcement tool the RCMP has is the Environmental Management Act which is a \$100 fine by means of a Violation Ticket, which is also enforceable outside city limits. In most cases, if RCMP can identify the person that illegally disposed of their waste, they will follow up with them and have them clean/pick up their litter. In most serious cases, they will issue the violation ticket.

Private Property

Private property owners do not have a lot of recourse when it comes to illegal dumping. One avenue for a private land owner to take is contacting the RCMP to pursue trespassing charges for persons entering their property and illegal dumping. It is up to the property owner to clean up and remove the illegal dumped material at their own cost.

Tla'amin Nation is responsible for illegal dumping on Tla'amin Lands. There are three laws that are applicable to garbage dumping; Land Law, Environmental Protection Law and Enforcement and Ticketing Law. The Tla'amin Nation has a full-time Enforcement Officer who monitors the Nation's lands and has also utilized local Compliance & Enforcement. If garbage is continuously being dumped at a site, then The Nation may (and have) install gates to prevent further public access. The Nation will investigate for any names on garbage debris (prescription bottles, mail, clothing, etc). If they can prove it is someone's garbage, the Nation will have the person who dumped the garbage go clean it up. If the person who dumped the garbage cannot be identified, then the Nation will clean it up and pay for the disposal. The Enforcement Officer has not yet issued fines or tickets for illegal dumping, but the laws are in place. The Tla'amin Nation does an annual Community Clean-up in the spring.

5 Comparison of Regional District Programs

Regional District	Bylaws	Enforcement/staff	Budget	Education /campaigns	Prevention events
Bukley Nechako	None	No specific staff for enforcement Forward calls to Conservation Officer Service	No budget set aside for the issue, in the past tipping fees for appliances containing refrigerant have been waived for cleanups.	None in 2018, looking to develop in accordance with new tipping fees being implemented	Waive tipping fees for community cleanup of illegally dumped refrigerant appliances plus those picked up by Ministry of Forestry & Lands Management staff
Cariboo	None	Conservation Officer Service	Cleanups/waived tipping fees are covered by the solid waste budget	Contracted conservation group for education component	None
Nanaimo	Bylaw No. 1386 mentions illegal dumping, Bylaw No. 1073, unsightly premise bylaw	Bylaw Officers, Zero Waste Staff Contractors	Illegal dumping budget: Charitable Organization Tipping and/or Hauling: Fees: \$76,000 Contracted Clean Up: \$15,000 Bylaw Enforcement: \$29,000 Community Clean Up Tipping Fees: \$6,500 Total: \$126,500	Partnering with Ministry of Environment and local timber company to produce advertising such as print ads	Tipping fees waived for community cleanups Annual citywide swap meet – Reuse Rendezvous
Peace River	Bylaw No. 2065, 2013. Pertains to PRRD sites charges range from \$500-\$2,000	One bylaw enforcement officer, contractors can issue separate fines at solid waste facilities for materials dropped off after hours or if person refuses to pay	No budget for illegal dumping, waived tipping fees are covered by the solid waste budget.	Recycling education, no specific illegal dumping campaign	4 coupons for up to 250kg of free waste disposal mailed out to landowners annually for spring cleaning event. Currently piloting 2 weeks in Spring and Fall tipping fee waiver for residents.
Columbia-Shuswap	Bylaw No. 5615 mentions illegal dumping, Bylaw No. 5776 sets out fines for illegal dumping at \$500	Bylaw officers (there have been no fines issued yet)	Separate budget for cleaning up illegal dumping is \$10,000, 2017 expenses = \$4,000	Illegal dumping page on RDCS website	Community groups can apply for cleanup events, RD partnered with FLNRO to waive tipping fees to site cleanups.

** Information gleaned from Regional District of Fraser- Fort George 2018 Illegal Dumping Report*

6 Conclusion

The qRD recognizes that illegal dumping is an ongoing issue that negatively effects the environment and overall cleanliness of the community. To have the most substantial impact in addressing this pollution issue, it is essential that all organizations and agencies that have a role or responsibility in monitoring or enforcement of illegal dumping, work together. Continuing to grow and evolve an illegal dumping education program that includes building community awareness of local recycling and waste disposal options and further development of enforcement resources are the fundamental elements necessary for an effective illegal dumping strategy.

The 2018 Solid Waste Management Plan outlines the development of a region-wide illegal dumping strategy by the end of 2019. The plan being proposed is a three-year strategy that will seek implementation and recommendations from the appointed Solid Waste Management Plan Monitoring Advisory Committee (SWMPMAC). The strategy is intended to be a living document requiring a full review and update after three years.

It is important to note that at this time there is no additional qRD budget allocated to expand upon current cleanup events or the recommendation and enforcement measures outlined in this report. There is, however, leg work that can be accomplished through the contracted Let's Talk Trash (LTT) team. Through prioritizing tasks and recommendations outlined in this strategy and having LTT accomplish planning and design phase work, the SWMPMAC can assist staff in making recommendations to the Board to consider different campaigns and initiatives during the annual budget season to implement the strategy's recommendations.

The qRD Illegal Dumping Strategy aims to continue building strong relationships with other government partners, utility and forest companies who manage vast areas of land to promote a consistent message to our community. Strong relationships will help foster intergovernmental communication on efforts and resources available while keeping all agencies connected and abreast of efforts being made by each, cultivating more effective and efficient work.