

Paula Kusack

Subject: FW: Request for your attention to an important issue
Attachments: aquamation map.jpg; Resolution for AH template.docx

From: Gail Mitchell 22 (1) [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 2:33 PM
To: cityclerk@abbotsford.ca; info@cityofarmstrong.bc.ca; mayor@burnaby.ca; Mayor.Dahl@campbellriver.ca; MAYOR.DISTRIBUTION.GROUP@castlegar.ca; info@chilliwack.ca; infor@colwood.ca; cityclerk@coquitlam.ca; council@courtenay.ca; info@cranbrook.ca; info@dawsoncreek.ca; mayorharvie@delta.ca; Michelle Staples <mayor@duncan.ca>; mayor@cityofenderby.com; city@fernie.ca; info@fortstjohn.ca; info@grandforks.ca; 22 (1) [REDACTED] mayor@kamloops.ca; mayorandcouncil@kelowna.ca; M+C@kimberley.ca; info@langford.bc.ca; WebInfo <webinfo@langleycity.ca>; druimy@mapleridge.ca; michael.goetz@merritt.ca; phorn@mission.ca; leonard.krog@nanaimo.ca; info@nelson.ca; pjohnstone@newwestcity.ca; info@cnv.org; info@parksville.ca; ask@penticton.ca; info@pittmeadows.ca; citypa@portalberni.ca; info@bradwest.ca; miahti@portmoody.ca; simon.yu@princegeorge.ca; mayor@princerupert.ca; llong@quesnel.ca; info@revelstoke.ca; mayorea@richmond.ca; info@salmonarm.ca; mayor@surrey.ca; sbuitas@terrace.ca; info@trail.bc.ca; info@vancouver.bc.ca; mayor@vernon.ca; mayor@victoria.ca; rwoznow@powellriver.ca; info@westkelownacity.ca; mknight@whiterockcity.ca; info@williamslake.ca
Cc: Ellie Hallman 22 (1) [REDACTED]; Ruth Davis 22 (1) [REDACTED]; swestie 22 (1) [REDACTED]
Subject: Request for your attention to an important issue

You don't often get email from 22 (1) [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

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September 15, 2023

To all municipal governments of British Columbia,

We are writing to seek your help in getting an important piece of provincial legislation amended.

The Cemetery, Interment and Funeral Services Act of British Columbia needs to be amended because it only allows for burial or fire-based cremation. Using large tracts of land for cemeteries is no longer a viable option and cremation has become the most widely chosen form of human disposition, by up to 90% of BC residents. Crematoria are huge emitters of carbon. The smoke from these facilities makes them unpopular in any neighbourhood. Thus, bodies are being brought to Vancouver Island from Vancouver for the process with the ashes returned to the city.

There is a better option. Aquamation or Alkaline Hydrolysis is gaining recognition in Canada, the US and around the world as being an environmentally friendly and economically viable

alternative. To gain information on this process, please see the list of references. There is also an attachment showing where AH is legal in North America.

Established goals of carbon reduction require our provincial government to broaden the definition of “cremation” to include flameless or water cremation (alkaline hydrolysis or aquamation).

We are asking you to consider the attached template, formulated by the District of Esquimalt, and use it to help us lobby the provincial government to make the necessary change to this piece of legislation, sooner rather than later. Your letters, with the resolution, to the Union of BC Municipalities and your MLA would be powerful.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

References:

1. www.aquamationbc.ca
2. www.cremationassociation.org/page/alkalinehydrolysis
3. <https://agoodgoodbye.com/tools-of-the-trade/the-latest-on-alkaline-hydrolysis-for-people-and-pets/>
4. <https://www.kamloopsthisweek.com/local-news/aquamation-instead-of-cremation-5402741>
5. <https://www.thedailybeast.com/aquamation-and-human-composting-are-opening-up-eco-friendly-burial-options-for-funerals?ref=author>
6. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Le7rLbkFe4>
7. <https://biosafeeng.com/divisions/life-science/resources/alkaline-hydrolysis/>

Sincerely,

Representative advocates for legalizing Aquamation in BC:

Ruth Davis, North Cowichan,

Ellie Hallman, Cowichan Bay,

Gail Mitchell, North Cowichan,

Stuart Westie, Williams Lake