



Mayor & Council  
District of Central Saanich  
1903 Mount Newton Cross Road  
Saanichton, BC, V8M 2A9

June 23, 2025

**Notice of Motion regarding expanding the Keating Business District (KBD)**

ÍY SŁÁCEL Mayor & Council,

I am writing with regard to the Notice of Motion submitted by Mayor Windsor, introduced at the May 12, 2025 District of Central Saanich Council Meeting, and on the agenda for consideration at the June 25, 2025 Special (Open) Council Meeting. The motion calls for the District to “initiate a process to include the Rural designated lands that are north of the gravel extraction area and immediately contiguous with the Keating Business District, within the Urban Containment Boundary and designate the land use and zoning for the purpose of expanding the Keating Business District.”

Both the WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council (WLC) and its partner organization, the WSÁNEĆ Lands Trust Society (WLTS) have raised major concerns with the potential intensification of the use of these rurally-zoned lands. As outlined in letters from WLTS and WLC dated May 23 and May 26, we call on Council to refrain from making any decisions related to the expansion of industrial activity without direct conversations with WLC and WLTS.

Building on that previous communication, I would also like to outline a specific concern with the current drafting of Mayor Windsor’s notice. The District’s Official Community Plan (OCP), in policy 4.4.28, commits the District to “undertake a study to explore land use options and consider redesignating the Rural designated portion of the properties to the north of the extraction pit to a more intensive use, such as housing, industrial, or commercial.” This policy specifically calls for exploration and consideration of options for this area.

As currently drafted, the motion calls for the District to initiate a process to designate the land use and zoning for the purpose of expanding the KBD. This presumes a foregone conclusion that expanding the KBD constitutes the best land use option. In doing so it implies that a decision has already been made about the redesignation, without the exploration and consideration called for in the District’s policy.

This causes major concerns as the expansion of the Keating Business District into the lands in question is likely to have a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of our people and territories. As you know, the impacts of Keating Business District on water quality and quantity have impacts throughout the whole watershed which includes places WSÁNEĆ are actively working to restore including ʔIKEL,



further downstream at MÁUWEĆ, and the shellfish beds at the bottom of the watershed.

We are appreciative of the work the District is doing with WLTS to advance our shared goal of restoring the wetlands at ʔIKEL, but we're concerned about the intensification of industrial activity upstream which could compromise the outcomes that we're collaborating on.

We therefore call on you to amend this Notice of Motion so that it provides for a non-biased land use study to inform decisions on any redesignation of these lands and to engage immediately with the WLTS and WLC on any process regarding the future uses of these lands.

HÍ SW̓ K̓E SIÁM

Gord Elliott  
Director of Operations