

Beaver Valley Agricultural Society  
Box 334  
Clarksburg, ON N0H 1J0



**2020 Fall Fair**  
**Beaver Valley Fall Fair**  
**September 11 & 12, 2020**  
**Thornbury, ON**

Over the past few months, Agricultural Society members have been reaching out, asking local businesses and organizations to support us as we proceed with putting together our 150th Fall Fair. A Fair that would showcase local participant's handiwork in the fields, kitchens, craft rooms and class rooms, celebrate with music, food and demonstrations of all kinds.

Over the past weeks, Ontario and Canada have been struggling to keep life normal for all Canadians. As much as we want to have a great big party on September 11 and 12, as a community minded organization we have made the decision to put the celebration on the back burner until COVID-19 has moved away and we can gather as one of the largest community gatherings in Thornbury.

We thank each and every one of you for continuing to provide us with a means to keep our Fair going, you know we couldn't do it without you.

Rather than saying goodbye, we are saying see you soon. Please consider helping us in 2021 when we will have the greatest celebration this Agricultural Society has ever had.

For those of you that have donated, please know that your donation will not go to waste. We would like to ask for your donation to remain with us so that we can use it in 2021. You will continue to be recognized as a sponsor and contributor to our Fair. Your ads will appear in the 2021 book and on our website, your funds will be used to draw visitors to Thornbury to celebrate.

If you feel that you would like to withdraw your support, we understand. Please contact us and we can arrange to have your donation returned.

Please stay tuned to our website, Facebook and Instagram accounts. If things improve by our original Fair dates, we hope to have a smaller gathering with music, food and friends, to acknowledge that 2020 has not been a total loss – [www.beavervalleyfallfair.ca](http://www.beavervalleyfallfair.ca)

Thank you again on behalf of all of the members of the Beaver Valley Agricultural Society.

Theresa Dawn  
President 2018-2020  
[info@beavervalleyfallfair.ca](mailto:info@beavervalleyfallfair.ca)

150th  
**BEAVER VALLEY**  
**FALL FAIR**  
**TAKE 2**

# Clarksburg Village Association

May 15, 2020

Town of Blue Mountains Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillors and Staff

RE: Clarksburg Sidewalk Capitol Project Deferral

It has come to my attention that the Clarksburg Sidewalk Capitol Project may be deferred until further notice. Last week I was contacted by Mr. Shawn Carey to share this news, why the suggestion to Council was made (due to Covid-19), and how to move forward from here.

Two options were discussed:

Option 1: Sidewalks this summer. The bid goes to tender in June. July and/or August we see construction. Beautiful, safe new sidewalks possibly by September 2020.

or

Option 2: Wait until the spring for new sidewalks. This would mean another disruption during May and/or June 2021. New sidewalks completed tentatively by July 2021.

After this conversation with Mr. Carey, I contacted our Clarksburg Village Association members and stakeholders. The decision was unanimous, and I will add response were received within hours. Our Clarksburg members have voted in favour of Option 1.

We unanimously feel not knowing how the re-opening of the economy will happen, and whether we may experience a second wave of Covid-19 or not, our preference, our recommendation to Council is to move forward this year, 2020, with the Clarksburg Sidewalk Capitol Project.

If all goes as planned, we may be re-opening to the public in June or July. We would rather continue with a slight disruption, while the financial assistance programs are still in place and have beautiful new sidewalks available for the people coming our town this September and October, rather than experience another disruption in the spring of 2021. With anticipated local tourism rates increasing next year, it would be great to already have the sidewalks fixed up by that time.

It is the Clarksburg Village Association's ask to Council and to Staff to remove this project from the differed list and instead bring it to fruition. We are asking the Town of Blue Mountains to assist in adding some much needed vibrancy and good news to our community, investing in Clarksburg, its businesses and residents. Please hear our Clarksburg voices.

Attached are some of the responses received from our members and stakeholders.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sarah Filion

President – Clarksburg Village Association

## Clarksburg Village Association

Some Responses received from Clarksburg Village Association members and stakeholders:

From MSC's point of view it makes sense to do it this year.

We do not anticipate being able to host any sizeable event at The Marsh before September, at the earliest.

Thanks

Steve Gorton (Marsh Street Centre)

Thanks Sarah, I say do this summer.

Mark Andersen

Squire Johns

I am in favour of option #1 - do it this summer so we don't have to have another disruption in 2021.

Andres Paara (Kearns Paara Real Estate Group)

This year please!

Sincerely,

*Jan Senesben*

VP, Director of Fundraising

Option one new sidewalks this year

Cynthia Marsh (Marsh Street Gallery)

The chiropractors on the corner prefer option 1 and thank you for your leadership on this project.

James Thompson

This year!

Karin Euler (Clarksburg Medical Group)

I vote for option #1 as I will not be seeing many clients in 2020 and hopefully will be bringing people to Clarksburg in 2021.

Thanks Sarah!

## Clarksburg Village Association

Leslie Lacombe (Lacombe Jewellery Studio)

Let's get'er done. It's been a long time in the making. Don't let them drop the ball!  
Oh and I think it's Dans birthday! Woot woot happy birthday oh fellow Clarksburg Artsburg  
peep 🐣 📱 🎂 🍰  
Happy weekend y'all

Cindy Gillmor~ (Art Bank Collective)

I think you are on the money when you say to go ahead with sooner as opposed to next year.

Susan Deiter (Marsh Street Gallery)

Makes sense to do it now while most businesses are closed or operating under limited hours etc.  
You never know what could happen if this gets put off until next year...

Cheers and thanks for all your continued ass busting for Clarksburg Sarah!

Skot

[www.desiron.ca](http://www.desiron.ca)

**RECEIVED VIA EMAIL**

**May 18, 2020**

**FROM: Tom Kritsch**

**TO: Council, Staff and Attainable Housing**

**Open Letter to the Town of the Blue Mountains – Attainable Housing**

Under their Attainable Housing initiative, the Town of the Blue Mountains is exploring options to provide attainable housing for average/medium income households who can't afford to buy or rent in our municipality. This is a worthy goal that will ensure a socially diverse community that will enrich our community and our workplaces.

The Town recently purchased the former Foodland property on Highway 26 in Thornbury as a possible site for this housing. The Town has said one of the reasons they picked this site was because of its proximity to downtown Thornbury and public transit. The Mayor explained that some of the residents in this housing wouldn't have a car so they would need to walk or ride transit to shop and work.

However, the selection of this specific site for attainable housing raises several concerns.

The obvious concern about the Town's criterion of being close to a transit line is that, of course at present, we have no public transit in Thornbury. Currently there is a partnership with the Town and Collingwood that provides public transit services from Collingwood to the Craighleith area, including Blue Mountain Resort. And while this transit line has proven successful, it is unclear whether the expansion of this system to Thornbury proper is warranted or even feasible.

It is also unclear what proportion of future residents of attainable housing will not own a car. The Town has decided to focus on those with average/medium incomes not a low-income demographic. On the surface it seems somewhat inconceivable that any average income household would not own a car. The Town must study and share relevant information on car ownership for this income group before making any transit expansion decisions.

But even if some residents of attainable housing do not own a car, it is likely many will. Building multiple housing units with access only from Highway 26 in Thornbury will further exacerbate the ever-growing volume of traffic through town. Most residents in the Town of the Blue Mountains accept, because of the bottleneck through town at Bruce Street, traffic problems in Thornbury are a necessary fact of life. But it seems unwise to worsen the problem if we don't have to. A site almost anywhere south of Highway 26 in Thornbury will provide multiple routes to downtown and locations both east and west of town.

One proposal for the Highway 26 site includes retail space on the ground level of the housing complex. It has been clear over the years that opening a retail business in Thornbury can sometimes be a risky venture, especially for those not on downtown Bruce Street. We have been fortunate so far in avoiding an influx of chain stores and box stores. The popularity of our

town is partly due to its unique village charm and to preserve that we must be cautious with future retail spaces. Instead of our predominance of small business operations, retail space on this site may only be financially feasible for chain stores, fast food outlets or even adult stores and tattoo parlours.

Lastly, many consider the \$1.6 million price tag for this small property and building too steep and as the site is currently unserviced the town will need to put in sewer and water if high density housing is built here. The Town must ask itself if this the most fiscally responsible option to pursue.

In looking for solutions, one option the Town may want to explore is as follows:

Our Town Hall is currently at capacity. Council is considering leasing offsite office space to house some of its overflow staff. While this may be necessary in the short-term, it doesn't necessarily have to be a long-term solution. A few years ago, the Town provided funds for Beaver Valley Outreach to purchase the former Piper's restaurant and the BVO has since renovated it to create offices, meeting rooms and the small Treasure Shop. Why not offer the old Foodland Building to the BVO, and then relocate some Town staff to the current BVO (Piper's) building?

This has a number of advantages. First, relocated Town staff will be right across the street from Town Hall. The BVO parking lot at the former Piper's will give the Town more parking spaces and perhaps help alleviate the on-street parking problem on Mill Street. Another benefit is the old Foodland building could possibly remain intact and, with some renovations, house the BVO. The currently crowded and cramped Treasure Shop would have more space and ample parking on this site. Further, this building could remain on its current septic system, at least for now, which could make it more fiscally attractive for the Town.

Unfortunately, the Town is only asking for public input on the concept for their "Gateway Attainable Housing Project" on the old Foodland property. Rather than merely asking for comments on the façade of a project on this specific site, the Town should instead be asking the public whether the old Foodland site is the most appropriate location in the first place. To ensure the decision for such a significant project is transparent and in the best interests of all residents, it is very important for the Town of the Blue Mountains to fully explore alternative options for an attainable housing site and seek input from the community on all available options. Just because the Town purchased the old Foodland site, does not mean it is the best choice.

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**Regards,**

**Tom Kritsch**

Executive Assistant  
Attainable Housing Corporation  
32 Mill Street  
P.O. Box 310  
Thornbury, ON N0H2P0

14 May 2020

This letter is in response to the Corporation's request for comments regarding the development of the former Foodland site.

Given the frequently-voiced concern before, during, and since the recent election campaign, it is certain that the need for housing is an important issue. Fortunately, Town Council has decided to be pro-active.

As to the design: It makes sense that the largest number of residential units is to be preferred. That responds appropriately to the needs that have been expressed by the area's commercial and service enterprises. Many of the conversations have been about the need for permanent housing for those who wish to live here year-round and to add their skills to the community.

With that in mind, I hope that the Board will not ignore the opportunity to develop the property on a co-operative model.

Both my wife and I have lived in co-op housing, she in Spruce Court in Toronto, and I in Strykers Bay on the Upper West Side of Manhattan.



Let me describe my experience. In the 1960s the Upper West Side was part of an Urban Renewal programme from West 59<sup>th</sup> Street to West 110<sup>th</sup> Street between Amsterdam Avenue and Columbus Avenue including the creation of the Lincoln Center arts complex.

Stryckers Bay was built in one of the early stages and I moved in during the spring of 1966 with a wife and two young children. A three-bedroom unit required an investment of \$5000 with sliding-scale carrying charges of approximately \$500 per month. There were two buildings, one of 21 storeys, and ours of 17 storeys. The ground-floor level was commercial and professional.

The advantage of the co-op model is that it attracts individuals who will be active in all aspects of the community and wish to its development and stability. There is a sense of collaborative and personal investment in your living space. There is participation in decisions: the elected board of fellow co-operators could not make contracts for capital improvements or other expenses without presenting before the members, their fellow co-operators. There was a sense of pride and purpose.

For interested persons for whom an initial investment might be a concern, a financing agreement could be offered.

During my 35 years residence, I was one of the few to move away when my wife expressed a desire to return to Canada in 2001. And, yes, my original investment was re-imbursed.

Yours truly,  
Roland Gosselin

Thornbury, ON N0H 2P0



18 May 2020

Alar Soever  
Mayor  
Town of The Blue Mountains, ON  
Canada

Dear Alar Soever

The International Day for Biodiversity will be celebrated on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May and World Environment Day on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June, 2020. This, at a time when the COVID-19 pandemic provides a sobering opportunity to reflect on our relationship with nature.

Nature provides us with essential life-supporting services such as food, clean water, medication and habitats. Healthy and diverse ecosystems contribute to making cities more resilient and better able to cope with extreme events and other impacts related to climate change. Countless studies have also demonstrated that interacting with nature positively impacts our mental and physical health and well-being, helping to alleviate stress and anxiety, especially prevalent at this time.

As mayors and leaders of local and subnational governments, we have a unique opportunity and an important responsibility to protect our biodiversity and ecosystems in ways that will restore humanity's relationship with nature. Together, we can have a global impact.

***Cities and regions are critical to addressing biodiversity loss and reconnecting people with nature***

According to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), biodiversity continues to decline in every region of the world, significantly reducing nature's capacity to contribute to people's well-being. This alarming trend endangers economies, livelihoods, food security, human health and quality of life of people everywhere.

It is well documented that cities, large and small, are ideally placed to significantly contribute to curbing biodiversity loss and reversing the unsustainable use of nature by proactively bringing nature back into our rapidly urbanizing world. By planning our cities *with* nature – through nature-based solutions, green infrastructure and green open spaces – we can dramatically improve the quality of life for all.

***Join me in committing to take action***

We have a special opportunity to act in the coming year. First, as we develop our post-COVID-19 recovery plans. Second, as we prepare for the 15<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). On that occasion, the world is expected to adopt a new Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. We need to ensure that cities and regions are written into this new global agreement and demonstrate the full potential and impact of cities acting together for nature.

ICLEI, as designated focal point of the Global Task Force (GTF) of Local and Regional Governments for Biodiversity, is bringing together, with key partners, all relevant networks and associations to call for a dedicated, stepped-up Decision and renewed Plan of Action for local and subnational biodiversity action. The contents of this call in the attached document (Annex 1) should be taken up in a dedicated Decision and should also be mainstreamed into the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

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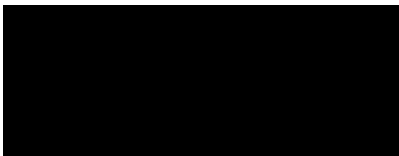
***To make a significant impact, we need to mobilize without delay***

I encourage you to:

- **Take action** in your city or region to address biodiversity challenges and integrate nature-based solutions in your development approach, including as you prepare your post-COVID recovery plans.
- **Join** the global *CitiesWithNature* initiative, which offers a unique platform for all cities to share ambitions, projects and actions and to learn from and inspire each other towards further action. Joining *CitiesWithNature* is free and easy, and by doing so, you will also be contributing to our goal of making this the world's largest collective commitment by our urban community to act *for and with* nature for the benefit of people and our planet.
- **Liaise with** the National Focal Points of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in your country, to make them aware of your track record and engagement on biodiversity and ecosystem services, and on your perspectives for the Post-2020 framework. **Call on** them to support a dedicated new Decision on local and subnational action for biodiversity.
- **Work with** me and others to empower your community and raise awareness about the value of biodiversity and nature's contribution to human health and well-being. **Celebrate** special days to raise awareness, such as International Day for Biological Diversity (May 22) and World Environment Day (June 5).
- **Participate and follow** the outcomes of key events and make your voice heard. Follow [@CitiesWNature](#) and [@ICLEICBC](#) on Twitter for information about key events and their outcomes.
- **Mobilize in the lead-up to COP 15**, including the planned 7<sup>th</sup> Global Summit of Local and Subnational Governments.

Ultimately, we need to halt and reverse the trends of biodiversity loss and take the path of *Living in Harmony with Nature*. Together, let's take strong action to create vibrant cities, where people and biodiversity can thrive.

I thank you in advance for your support and, most importantly, your decisive action, and I wish you all strength and wisdom in dealing with the considerable challenges that lie ahead.



**Valérie Plante**

Mayor of Montréal

ICLEI Global Ambassador for Local Biodiversity

**Useful links:**

[biodiversity@iclei.org](mailto:biodiversity@iclei.org)

[CitiesWithNature](#)

[National Focal Points of the CBD](#)

[International Day for Biological Diversity](#)

[World Environment Day](#)



[biodiversity@iclei.org](mailto:biodiversity@iclei.org)



# ANNEX 1

## CALL FROM SUBNATIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FOR A STEPPED-UP DEDICATED DECISION AND RENEWED PLAN OF ACTION TOWARDS THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

**Draft subject to further consultation, 15 May 2020**

### 1. Introduction

1.) This document provides an overview of what has been achieved at the global, national and subnational levels since 2008 in strengthening the role and contributions by the subnational and local levels of government towards the achievement of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). It focuses specifically on reviewing the successes, achievements and gaps of Decision X/22 of the CBD adopted at Conference of Parties (COP) 10, on the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (the PoA). The current PoA concludes this year and the review makes a strong case, based on the successes and lessons from the past decade, for renewing the PoA with a stepped up and more ambitious plan, under the new global biodiversity framework.

2.) Nature is declining at an alarming rate, and we've seen that the current global response is insufficient. The difficulty to mainstream biodiversity into all sectors and across all levels of government, is one of the main obstacles to the implementation of the current CBD Strategic Plan. While this Plan was intended to be more focused on the Parties to the CBD - the countries - the next global biodiversity framework is intended to be inclusive and participatory, actively engaging all stakeholders and all levels of governments. Cities are engines of innovative solutions, while subnational governments can ensure both vertical and horizontal integration of biodiversity policies. Local and subnational governments can take direct action to restore ecosystems and reverse extinction trends, while tackling a wide range of sustainable development issues.

3.) Urgent action is needed at all levels of government and with all other actors to halt the current trajectory of biodiversity loss and achieve the transformative action called for by scientists, governments and other stakeholders. A renewed and significantly stepped-up PoA will institutionalize the need for collaboration between all levels of government, to ensure we are capable of realizing the level of ambition we foresee in the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GFB).

### 2. The current Plan of Action 2011 to 2020

4.) Decision X/22 and its 10-year (2011-2020) "[Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity](#)" was the first-ever long-term Decision by a Rio Convention to recognize and support the role of subnational and local governments as key implementing partners to the Parties. It provided guidelines outlining how national governments could assist local and subnational governments in implementing the CBD, preparing action plans and ultimately assist their national governments in achieving the goals of the Convention. More recently, the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Parties adopted an unprecedented number of decisions -seven in total- that relate to further involvement of all levels of government. The call for a comprehensive and participatory process to prepare the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework also recognized the critical importance of local and subnational governments and it is time to manifest this approach beyond 2020.

5.) The response to the process of recognizing subnational and local governments includes the implementation and strengthening of initiatives, projects, programs. Further evidence lies in the advocacy work done by networks, consultative bodies and alliances, such as the [Group of Leading Subnational Governments to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets](#) (GoLS) led by the Governor of Aichi, that gather global leaders, from local and subnational governments, willing to rise to the challenge of halting biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation. Among the networks that have taken on the advocacy work are [ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability Cities Biodiversity Center](#) (CBD) and [Regions4 Sustainable Development](#), both organizations head the Advisory Committees, resulting from Decision X/22, on Cities and Subnational Governments, respectively, and actively contribute to the dialogue with the Parties to the Convention and its Secretariat on behalf of local and subnational leaders. Furthermore, the [European Committee of the Regions](#) is a consultative body of both local and subnational governments leading the discussions at a European level. The robust examples of what has been achieved are testimony that both constituencies and its platforms are ready to play a stronger involvement in the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, provided that it allows for the manifestation of their potential as fundamental partners of the Parties in its implementation.

### **3. Main components of a new dedicated and stepped-up decision that builds on a renewed Plan of Action toward 2030**

6.) Now more than ever, the whole of government must take decisive action, individually and collectively, to bring about the transformative change needed to bend the curve in biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation. To fully support Parties in the development, adoption as a policy instrument, and implementation of an effective, participatory and bold new global biodiversity framework, local and subnational governments are calling for:

- (i) the inclusion, as appropriate, of subnational and local government in 2030 and 2050 goals and 2030 action targets;
- (ii) resource mobilization for increased investment in biodiversity action at subnational and local levels;
- (iii) mainstreaming of biodiversity at subnational and local levels;
- (iv) capacity-building for subnational and local governments;
- (v) tailoring CEPA initiatives and instruments to the subnational and local contexts (communicating, educating and raising public awareness);
- (vi) monitoring, evaluation and feedback by subnational and local governments; and
- (vii) support for networks and alliances to accelerate biodiversity action by subnational and local governments.

For each, the following sections present supportive elements and principles for the Parties' consideration.

#### **a) Inclusion, as appropriate, of subnational and local governments in 2030 and 2050 goals and 2030 action targets**

7.) Subnational and local governments are part and parcel of Government and accountable to national governments to varying degrees. They are essential partners in supporting the implementation of the CBD, yet they are an underused ally and resource for achieving global biodiversity goals. They are currently undertaking meaningful action on both direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss and seeking to work with nature to realize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and to contribute to

National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and National Determined Contributions (NDCs). Local action and management at ecosystem and landscape levels lead to greater efficiency, effectiveness and equity. The post-2020 global biodiversity framework must create enabling conditions in which the subnational and local governments' role is recognized and their contribution valued and optimized if it is to achieve transformative outcomes at the global scale. It is therefore necessary to formally recognize the role of subnational and local governments in the 2030 and 2050 outcome-oriented goals and action-oriented targets. To this end, they should, whenever realistic and feasible, include a clear reference to active participation by subnational and local governments. To meet such targets and goals, subnational and local governments are not only important implementers of action plans and strategies developed at national level, but also critical innovators in developing solutions on the ground, at the subnational and local level. They work not only through their mandated authority but also through extensive voluntary contributions, creating important partnerships that mobilize the business sector, civil society organisations, IPLC, youth and women. Making the most of what subnational and local governments have to offer will mean recognising the full range of the roles that they can play. It would, therefore, be necessary to include, as appropriate, local and/or subnational contributions into designing, committing to and implementing NBSAPs and other implementation support mechanisms. To promote multilevel governance, UN organizations and associated global actors should invite representatives of the subnational and local government constituency to serve formally and participate fully in institutional structures and instruments where appropriate. This will ensure that subnational and local positions and contributions are fully realized and enabled, as has happened in the case of the CBD's Informal Advisory Group on the Mainstreaming of Biodiversity and Advisory Committee on Programme of Work for the Global Initiative for Communication, Education and Public Awareness.

**b) Resource mobilization for increased investment in biodiversity action at subnational and local levels**

8.) Subnational and local governments face numerous obstacles in accessing the existing international and regional resource opportunities, and in attracting public and private financing for biodiversity. It is, therefore, necessary to address such obstacles and barriers in the post-2020 biodiversity policy framework by creating enabling conditions for greater investments in biodiversity action by subnational and local governments. Meanwhile, subnational and local governments should be able to reprioritize their own resources - i.e. within their budget - as well as to mobilize new resources from the private sector. It is imperative that no global crisis is addressed at the cost of leaving nature behind: Now more than ever, nature-based solutions must be part of the solution to global crises. It is vital the contribution by subnational and local governments in addressing these crises, is well understood and adequately resourced, and investment into nature-based solutions increased.

**c) Mainstreaming of biodiversity at subnational and local level**

9.) To make further progress in mainstreaming biodiversity - under the Long-Term Approach to Mainstreaming (LTAM) recommended by the Informal Advisory Group on Mainstreaming - it is imperative to reinforce the importance of mainstreaming biodiversity across the whole of government, and its policies, including land-use planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies, fiscal policies, budgets and accounts. Secondly, to identify the efforts that subnational and local governments specifically need to undertake, together with the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities, and other major groups and stakeholders to support biodiversity mainstreaming across jurisdictional, cross-cutting and sectoral policies. Thirdly, to ensure an enabling environment that supports the mainstreaming of the multiple social, economic and health benefits of nature at the



subnational and local levels, to improve the quality of life and resilience of communities; enhance social cohesion; lead to financial benefits and savings for both individuals and governments; and promote sustainable consumption and production, within planetary boundaries, for urban lifestyles.

**d) Capacity building for subnational and local governments**

10.) Subnational and local governments should be equipped with adequate human, financial and technical means, commensurate to their responsibility and jurisdictions, so that actions taken at the subnational and local levels can contribute effectively to the implementation of NBSAPs. Specific consideration should also be given to strengthening subnational and local governments' capacity to implementing nature-based solutions (NBS) and green and blue infrastructure; and to take actions that improve the quality of life and resilience of their communities, by adopting systemic and ecosystem approaches to challenges that communities face daily such as shelter, food, water, energy, pollution, transport, health care, decent employment opportunities and enhancement of livelihood options. These are all interlinked and fundamentally connected in nature. It is therefore necessary to identify and recognize these needs resulting in a more efficient biodiversity action.

**e) Subnational and local government-tailored CEPA (communicating, educating and raising public awareness) and local action**

11.) The implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework will be supported by a coherent, comprehensive and innovative communication strategy. Building on lessons learnt from the implementation of the Strategy Plan 2011-2020, subnational and local governments should explicitly be part of the post-2020 communication strategy. They are better placed to raise public awareness on the need for immediate biodiversity action, as well as take action across the whole of society, as they are the closest public authority to citizens and are also the best informed of the specific context they operate in. Their direct connection to communities and circumstances provides them with unique insight and legitimacy when communicating necessary changes in lifestyle and production patterns, while reconnecting nature and people in and around our cities and regions. In the forthcoming Decade of Ecosystem Restoration, with around 75% of our planets' resources being used in and around cities, and urban populations set to rise to almost 70% by 2050, subnational and local governments' will inevitably play an important role in restoring vital ecosystems that provide food and energy, water and biodiversity to support life.

**f) Monitoring, evaluation and feedback by subnational and local governments**

12.) To assess the implementation of measures included in the NBSAPs, each country needs to collect data from the subnational and local levels. It is therefore necessary that Parties support subnational and local governments to improve decision-making through better access to biodiversity data; and develop a monitoring system that facilitates data collection by subnational and local governments that will then be aggregated at national level for reporting and evaluation. Monitoring would benefit from integrating input by subnational and local governments into setting targets in NBSAPs, and other frameworks such as National Determined Contributions (NDCs), Sendai risk frameworks, UN Habitat's City Prosperity Initiative Framework, and health and well-being indices. In the post-Covid world, integration and measurement across biodiversity, climate, sustainability, economic, health and well-being agendas will be increasingly necessary. This in turn would help provide feedback on progress towards attaining biodiversity goals and targets, including on the actions taken, their effectiveness, and resulting changes in biological, social and economic conditions that contribute to the attainment of SDGs and implementation of the New Urban Agenda. The CitiesWithNature and RegionsWithNature platform

provides an online mechanism, which is endorsed by the CBD Secretariat, where subnational and local governments can make their commitments and set targets as the basis for enabling ongoing monitoring and reporting that can feed into national monitoring and reporting systems.

**g) Support for networks and alliances to accelerate biodiversity action by SNGs**

13.) Parties should facilitate the international cooperation among subnational and local governments, as well as their membership in alliances or networks with nearby authorities or with authorities under the same national legislation as a measure to address lack of economic and financial resource – realizing e.g. economies of scale with expertise-pooling or pool implementation of NBSs; to address knowledge gaps or the need for capacity-building. To this end, it is necessary to address the digital gap to allow increased connectivity and use of online platforms to make it easier for subnational and local governments to work together also online. Recognition should also be given to the value of peer-to-peer exchanges and the pioneering work that ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, the European Committee of Regions, Regions4 Sustainable Development and the Group of Leading Subnational Governments to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets have played supporting and strengthening subnational and local governments.

**4. Concluding remarks**

This document is the product of ongoing engagement and collaborative effort between ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainable Development and its Cities Biodiversity Center (CBC), the European Committee of Regions (CoR), the Advisory Committee on Subnational Governments and Biodiversity (coordinated by Regions4 Sustainable Development and the Government of Quebec), and the Group of Leading Subnational Governments toward Aichi Biodiversity Targets (GoLS). It was prepared as input into the [Edinburgh Process for Subnational Governments, Cities and Local Authorities on the development of the Post 2020 GBF](#). The Edinburgh Process will be delivered through online consultations taking place over May and June 2020. The online consultations will be supported by a series of online information sessions (5 – 8 May 2020) and thematic webinars (dates tbc). The Edinburgh Process is part of the work programme of the Convention on Biological Diversity Open-Ended Working Group for the development of the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, as a partner event. The process will virtually bring together delegates from across the globe and is being hosted by the Government of Scotland. ICLEI is one of the co-organizers of this consultation process. The process aims to consult the local and subnational government constituency on the Zero Draft Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), recommendations for a renewed and stepped-up dedicated Decision and Plan of Action on local and subnational governments, and the Edinburgh Declaration, as joint outputs from the Edinburgh Process that will feed into the CBD consultation processes.

**RECEIVED VIA EMAIL, May 17, 2020 – Alex Maxwell**

Mayor, Council, Municipal Clerk Corina Giles, Sustainability Committee, Agricultural Committee and the Covid 19 task force of The Town Of The Blue Mountains

Covid 19 stopped the wheels turning, allowing our community and others a few seconds in geologic time to come face to face with what really matters. The Town of The Blue Mountains is truly blessed in the sense that it is a small community situated well within a rural agricultural setting, along with an abundance of fresh water and a public infrastructure.

Covid 19 laid the cards out on the community table and showed us all what is truly important. From this a few key things really stood out: food supply chains, the most vulnerable at risk, health and safety, and our need for continuous growth.

Time after time it has and is being mentioned that if the individual acts accordingly then only will we all collectively move forward. If one embraces this pandemic philosophy at the community level, recognizing that the well-being of the individual is directly tied to the collective moving forward, will the Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains do whatever it can to empower the individual within our community to reduce its dependence on food chains, assist the individuals within the most vulnerable populations, and develop and promote greater health and safety at the individual level while still recognizing the need to assist existing community structures and supply chains whenever and wherever it can? Will our municipal council also fully embrace key philosophical points within the sustainable path in concert with the pandemic philosophy using them both as a template to help deal with the short and long term implications that will challenge our municipality due to this pandemic and potential future others ones?

# ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS OF ENBRIDGE GAS INC.

**Enbridge Gas Inc. has applied for approval of a System Expansion Surcharge, a Temporary Connection Surcharge and an Hourly Allocation Factor. The surcharges are used to recover the costs of natural gas expansion projects and the allocation factor is used to assess feasibility of projects.**

**Learn more. Have your say.**

**Enbridge Gas Inc. has applied to the Ontario Energy Board for the following approvals:**

- **A System Expansion Surcharge of \$0.23 per m<sup>3</sup>, for all future “Community Expansion Projects” – i.e. projects that expand the natural gas system to provide gas service to a minimum of 50 first-time users. If approved, the surcharge would primarily apply to first-time small volume customers in the project area and for a period of up to 40 years. Larger volume customers would have the option to pay the surcharge or negotiate another method of contribution to the capital costs for the project.**
- **A Temporary Connection Surcharge of \$0.23 per m<sup>3</sup> for all future smaller expansion projects – i.e. projects involving the extension of mains and related service attachments to fewer than 50 first-time users, as well as service lines to individual customers installed on pre-existing mains. If approved, the surcharge would apply to first-time small volume customers for a period of up to 20 years instead of paying up front for the capital costs of the connection. Larger volume customers would have the option to pay the surcharge or negotiate another method of contribution to the capital costs for the project.**
- **An Hourly Allocation Factor to allocate capital costs of future development projects to customers for the purposes of conducting economic feasibility analysis.**

**Enbridge Gas Inc. is also proposing to make related changes to rate schedules and feasibility policies, necessary to harmonize the surcharges and provide consistency between the former Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc. and former Union Gas Limited rate zones.**

## **THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING**

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) will hold a public hearing to consider the application filed by Enbridge Gas. During the hearing, we will question Enbridge Gas and we will also hear questions and arguments from individuals that have registered to participate (called intervenors) in the OEB’s hearing. At the end of this hearing, the OEB will decide whether to approve the application.

The OEB is an independent and impartial public agency. We make decisions that serve the public interest. Our goal is to promote a financially viable and efficient energy sector that provides you with reliable energy services at a reasonable cost.

## **BE INFORMED AND HAVE YOUR SAY**

You have the right to information regarding this application and to be involved in the process.

- You can review Enbridge Gas’ application on the OEB’s website now
- You can file a letter with your comments, which will be considered during the hearing
- You can become an intervenor. As an intervenor you can ask questions about Enbridge Gas’ application and make arguments on whether the OEB should approve Enbridge Gas’ request. Apply by **June 9, 2020** or the hearing will go ahead without you and you will not receive any further notice of the proceeding
- At the end of the process, you can review the OEB’s decision and its reasons on our website

## **LEARN MORE**

Our file number for this case is **EB-2020-0094**. To learn more about this hearing, find instructions on how to file a letter with your comments or become an intervenor, or to access any document related to this case, please enter the file number **EB-2020-0094** on the OEB website: **[www.oeb.ca/participate](http://www.oeb.ca/participate)**. You can also phone our Consumer Relations Centre at 1-877-632-2727 with any questions.

## **ORAL VS. WRITTEN HEARINGS**

There are two types of OEB hearings – oral and written. Enbridge Gas has applied for a written hearing. The OEB will determine at a later date whether to proceed by way of a written or oral hearing. If you think an oral hearing is needed, you can write to the OEB to explain why by **June 9, 2020**.

## **PRIVACY**

*If you write a letter of comment, your name and the content of your letter will be put on the public record and the OEB website. However, your personal telephone number, home address and email address will be removed. If you are a business, all your information will remain public. If you apply to become an intervenor, all information will be public.*

*This rate hearing will be held under section 36 of the Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998, S.O. 1998, c.15 Schedule B.*



Ontario

Ontario Energy Board  
Commission de l'énergie  
de l'Ontario