

Ted Olynyk

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May 23, 2024

Municipality of North Cowichan
7030 Trans Canada Highway
Duncan, BC V9L 6A1

Dear Mayor Douglas and Council:

Across the province, approximately 90 per cent of BC Hydro transmission Right of Ways (ROWS) cross provincial, municipal, or federal Crown lands. When it comes to the smaller distribution lines, most distribution lines typically run along road allowances, not on BC Hydro rights of way.

With very few exceptions, BC Hydro does not own the land under which our transmission lines traverse; if the land is not Crown, then it is either privately owned or is on Indigenous treaty or reserve lands. BC Hydro is required to maintain the right of way for access and control of vegetation which poses a risk to the safe and reliable operation of the power system.

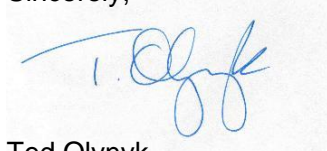
If the activity under a line does not threaten the integrity of our system, BC Hydro has no jurisdiction on the activities or uses of the land. Nonetheless, during vegetation management work on ROW, BC Hydro will contribute resources and work with different landowners, local government, and community groups where there is an integrated plan and effort from all stakeholders to control broom. We work with property owners of adjacent land who have a current broom management programs or with those whose lands are currently free of broom. As well, BC Hydro funds several regional invasive species committees throughout the province (including the Coastal Invasive Species Committee).

If the property owner accepts broom removal and adjacent landowners have an actual plan to deal with broom on their property, we will work them to deal with broom as best can be done at the site. Broom is best controlled when all relevant stakeholders are committed to its control, as it requires sustained effort. BC Hydro needs to see a plan and a commitment to ensure we are using ratepayers' resources appropriately. We know from solid historical research and knowledge that if you can control broom within 10m of a boundary that is presently free of broom or being managed, it will not spread onto those lands.

Broom was here long before transmission lines or BC Hydro made it to Vancouver Island. Introduced in the 1850's by Captain Walter Grant, broom has had many years to spread and take hold. Scotch broom is designated as a Regional Containment/Control species by the BC Provincial Priority Invasive Species List. There is no quick and easy fix for eradicating it. While BC Hydro has spent thousands tackling broom, it will take the vigilance and commitment of all local governments, property owners and stakeholders to manage it.

BC Hydro be please to participate in any meeting with the municipality of North Cowichan to deal with broom around our system.

Sincerely,



Ted Olynyk

May 15, 2024

Ted Olynyk
Manager, Community Relations
BC Hydro
400 Madsen Rd
Nanaimo, BC V9R 5M3
via email: ted.olynyk@bchydro.com

Dear Ted Olynyk

Re: Request for Assistance in Managing Scotch Broom Near Transmission Lines

I am writing to follow up on a discussion during the Council meeting on April 3, 2024 in response to local concerns regarding scotch broom growth near BC Hydro's transmission lines. Council has authorized me to engage with BC Hydro on this matter.

As you may be aware, scotch broom is an invasive species that poses significant management challenges due to its rapid growth and resilience. Its proximity to transmission lines not only complicates maintenance efforts but also raises safety concerns.

We would like to request information regarding BC Hydro's work to manage the scotch broom near power lines. Due to the pervasiveness of Scotch Broom in our community, North Cowichan looks for opportunities to control broom in select areas that have a good likelihood for restoration. A collaborative approach could be an effective means to identify such opportunities and even mitigate potential risks to the safety and reliability of your infrastructure in North Cowichan.

We look forward to your response and any suggestions on how we might proceed together in tackling this challenge. Please let us know at your earliest convenience if a meeting can be arranged with your team to further discuss this request.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely



Rob Douglas
Mayor

mayor@northcowichan.ca

cc: North Cowichan Council
Ted Swabey, CAO, North Cowichan