



Northwest

INVASIVE PLANT COUNCIL



2018

ANNUAL REPORT

What is an INVASIVE PLANT ?

Invasive plants are not native (an introduced species) to a specific location and have a tendency to spread to a degree believed to cause damage to the environment, the economy or human or animal health.

They are extremely fast-growing and usually reproduce quickly and in large numbers. Since they are not from the area where they have been introduced, they lack natural predators to slow their spread. The native plants where an invasive species has been introduced lack defense mechanisms to fight off the invader: a perfect scenario for invaders to take over.



Northwest
INVASIVE PLANT COUNCIL

Northwest Invasive Plant Council
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Table of Contents

Who We Are	3
Message from the Chair	4
Education & Outreach	5
Field Operations	6
Revenue & Expenses	8
Financial Report	9
Special Thanks	10
Board of Directors	11
Appendix 1	12
<i>Education & Outreach Examples</i>	
Appendix 2.....	14
<i>Target Plant List</i>	
Appendix 3	15
<i>Independent Auditor's Report</i>	

WHO WE ARE

The Northwest Invasive Plant Council (NWPC) is a not-for-profit organization that provides invasive plant management (IPM) programs across central and northwest BC – a land base of approximately 33% of the province. Our stakeholders and partners consist of provincial, regional and municipal governments, crown corporations and private industry, First Nation and general members. The NWPC provides IPM support and coordination to include education and outreach, inventory, treatments and monitoring. We are guided by our Strategic Plan that details goals, operating principles, and strategies.

**'...coordinated support,
education, inventory tools,
assessments and treatments
for stakeholders involved in
various aspects of
invasive plant management.'**



Common Yellow toadflax infestation, Valemount, BC

Message from the Chair

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I would like to start off by commending the staff, directors, partners and contractors of the NWIPC. Without their dedication towards noxious and invasive plant management there would be no NWIPC.

We covered a lot of ground in 2018 - a land base totaling 37,642,600 hectares. This was no small accomplishment.

To be specific, we managed high priority noxious and invasive plants on 2,152 sites, surveyed 3,201 sites. Across all sites, 11,313 inventories recorded all invasive plants on each site. We face challenges with a program this large and with so many partners. But, I can say with confidence that I am pleased with how we met those challenges in 2018.

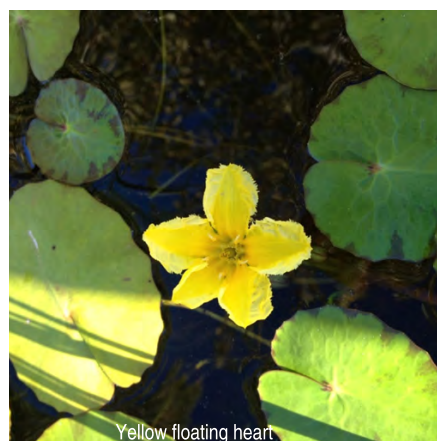
We continue to evaluate our path of of continuous improvement, which impacts positively on how we deliver our services.

I would like to give a special thank you to our Program Manager Penni Adams, Field Coordinator Darrell Hill, and Education and Outreach Assistant Korie Marshall, (resigned December 2018), whose tireless efforts were the forefront to the delivery of the 2018 program.

As we plan for the future, I look back on the valuable work the council continues to execute and the services it provides. I am proud to work and be involved with a team such as the NWIPC.

Erik Swanson

*Chair, Board of Directors
Northwest Invasive Plant Council*



Yellow floating heart

OUR MANDATE

'To prevent further damage to the ecosystems of northwest and central BC from invasive plants and begin to rehabilitate ecosystems that have been degraded.'

PREVENTION IS KEY!

Primary Objective

Preventing the introduction and spread of invasive plants is the primary objective of our education and outreach activities. We partner with stakeholders across the region to encourage adults and youth to be actively engaged in invasive plant control and ecosystem rehabilitation.

We continue to manage popular programs such as the NWIPC Hotline, the Landowner Weed Removal Program and the Cattlemen's and Livestock Associations rebate programs.

In 2018, NWIPC became a partner in the Canada-wide *Play Clean Go* program which includes the now familiar *Grow Me Instead*, *PlantWise* and *Clean/ Drain/ Dry* programs.

Boots On The Ground

Our IPMA contractors are often the first people approached by the public. They provided information on what they were doing, promoted our various programs, and directed people where to find out more.

Shows & Events

- Seedy Saturday
- Northern BC Home & Garden Show
- Plant sales - Smithers and Prince George
- Valemount Marina Fishing Derby (Kinbasket Lake)
- BC Northern Exhibition
- Farm Fest, Prince George
- Local farmers' markets
- Grand Opening: Chun T'oh Whudujut/Ancient Forest

Provincial Park and Protected Area

- Community Weed Pulls - PG Naturalists, Terrace Beautification Society, Naikoon Park Scotch broom by Haida Gwaii residents

Training & Presentations

- David Douglas Botanical Society/Master Gardeners
- Lectures to College of New Caledonia students
- Best Management Practices workshops for natural resource workers
- Public school presentations
- Delegations to municipal and regional councils
- Seymour Lake Conservation Society

Media

Local radio, television and print media supported the work of the NWIPC through interviews and informative articles. Information about events, invasive plants of concern and other informative articles were also posted on our web site and social media.

Collaboration

Contributing to our education and outreach in 2018 were other regional invasive species organizations, BC ministry specialists, the Invasive Species Council of BC, the Canada Council on Invasive Species, industry and individuals with a passion and expertise regarding invasive plants.

See Appendix 1 for examples of education and outreach materials and events.

Education & Outreach



INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT AREA (IPMA)

The NWIPC operating area consists of eight IPMAs, spanning from just south of Valemount (Hwy 5) and west to Haida Gwaii and from south of Hixon (Hwy 97) to the Yukon border. In 2018, the IPMAs were managed by three primary contractors with dedicated crews for each IPMA. The contractors surveyed sites and inventoried the invasive plants. While on site they treated high priority species identified on a priority species list specific to each IPMA. The hard work of our contractors ensures the success of the on-the-ground program.



IPMA	IPMA MANAGEMENT
Robson Valley	Spectrum Resource Group Inc.
Prince George	Spectrum Resource Group Inc. Drug & Alcohol Recovery Team (DART) Manual Crew
Nechako	T & J Forestry
Lakes District	MGP Contracting
Bulkley	Colebran & Spectrum Resource Group Inc.
Stikine	MGP Contracting
Skeena	Spectrum Resource Group Inc.
Haida Gwaii	MGP Contracting

The NWIPC TARGET SPECIES LIST

Fifty-six species were targeted for management in 2018 (see Appendix 2). A prioritized list of species for management was developed for each IPMA based on regional Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR), species, invasiveness class and regional priorities. The NWIPC contractors and crews were diligent in following EDRR protocols to prevent the establishment and subsequent impacts of newly introduced invasive species.



Knotweed infestation: Haida Gwaii
Photo: P. Adams

Field Operations



ON-THE-GROUND ACCOMPLISHMENTS & DATA COLLECTION

The scope of work included surveys, treatments (including placing bio agents), monitoring, data collection and data entry. Detailed site and invasive plant data was collected. The data was entered into the provincial Invasive Alien Plant Program (IAPP) database - a valuable tool for analyzing trends and for developing our IPMA contractors' work plans.

SURVEYS & INVENTORIES	
# of sites surveyed	3,201
# of sites with invasive plants ¹	2,192
# of invasive plant inventories ²	11,313
Total hectares of invasive plants	1,659
CHEMICAL TREATMENTS	
# sites with chemical treatments	901
Total # of chemical treatments ³	1,373
Total hectares chemical treatment	41.20
MECHANICAL TREATMENTS	
# of sites with mechanical treatments	1,245
Total # of mechanical treatments ³	1,660
Total hectares mechanical treatment	17.71
BIOLOGICAL RELEASES	
# of biological releases	6
# insects released	1,300
LINEAR SURVEYS (Ministry of Transport and Forest Service Roads)	
Kilometres of road shoulder right-of-ways surveyed	10,995

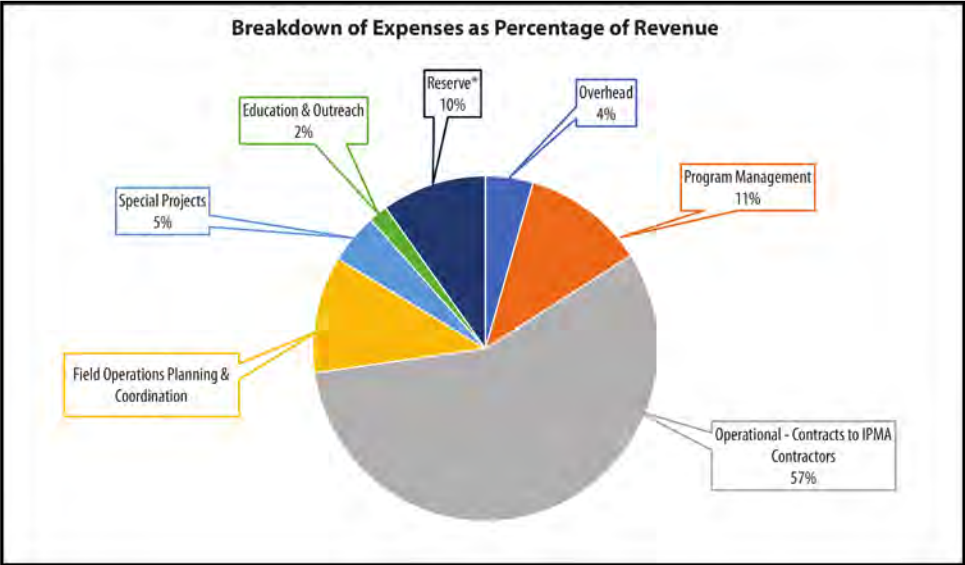
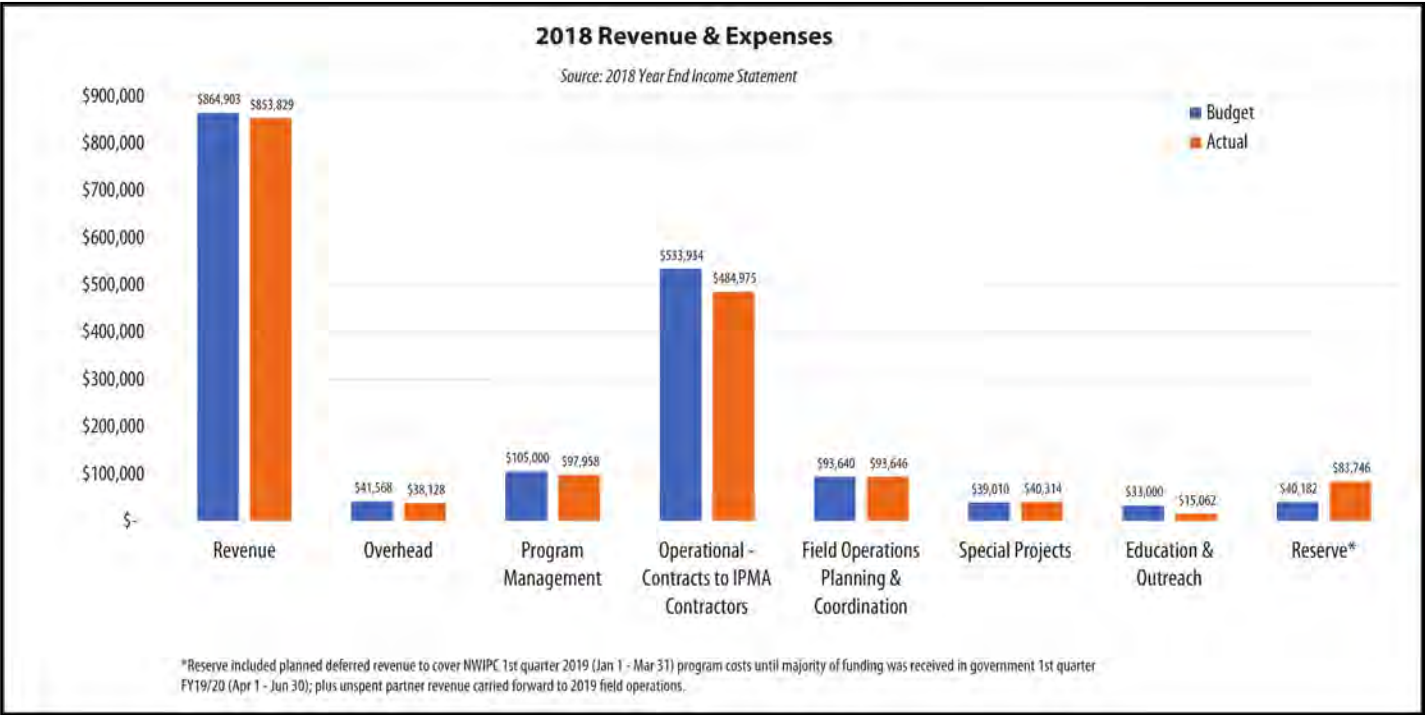
¹ This number is less than the number of sites surveyed as some sites no longer had invasive species on them; treatments had been successful or some other factor had limited re-growth.

² Every invasive plant species at a site is individually recorded. A site survey may yield multiple species.

³ A site may have more than one species treated and may have both mechanical and chemical treatments, depending on site characteristics and plant species



2018 REVENUE & EXPENSES SUMMARY



Revenue & Expenses



Financial Report



Hoary alyssum

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

The KPMG *Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of the Northwest Invasive Plant Council* can be found in Appendix 3.

Complete 2018 KPMG Financial Statement is available at www.nwipc.org.

<i>From 2018 KPMG audit report</i>	2018	2017
ASSETS		
Cash	326,000	273,639
Accounts Receivable	36,664	1,989
Guaranteed Income Certificate	298,000	-
Prepaid Expenses	736	736
	661,400	276,363
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS		
Liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	28,937	33,717
Deferred revenue	399,708	68,325
Deposits payable	882	-
	429,527	102,042
Net Assets:		
Unrestricted funds	183,543	125,991
Internally restricted funds	48,330	48,330
	661,400	4276,363

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

<i>From 2018 KPMG 2017 and 2018 audit reports</i>	2018 Budget	2018 Actual	2017 Actual	2016 Actual
REVENUES	\$863,404	\$817,077	\$833,108	\$864,758
EXPENDITURES:				
Administrative	66,743	55,335	54,257	64,368
Management	189,647	180,042	162,083	159,157
Operational: inventory & treatment	517,013	491,674	514,557	597,833
Projects	51,325	32,474	58,696	50,323
	824,712	759,525	789,593	872,041
NET EARNINGS	\$38,683	\$57,552	\$43,515	\$(7,238)



Japanese knotweed at residence in Prince George P. Adams





Mountain bluet P. Adams



Marsh plume thistle
R. Rutledge Burrwood.org

OUR PARTNERS & STAKEHOLDERS

- British Columbia Hydro
- City of Prince George
- City of Prince Rupert
- City of Terrace
- Columbia Basin Trust
- Council of the Haida Nation
- District of Houston
- District of Kitimat
- District of Port Edward
- District of Vanderhoof
- Fortis BC
- Habitat Conservation Trust Fund
- Kinder Morgan Canada Inc.
- Ministry of Environment & Climate Change - BC Parks
- Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resources Operations & Rural Development
- Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure
- Nature Trust of BC
- Northwest Community College
- Pretium Resources Inc. (Brucejack Goldmine)
- Regional District Bulkley - Nechako
- Regional District Fraser-Fort George
- Invasive Species Council BC
- Town of Smithers
- Village of Burns Lake
- Village of Hazelton
- Village of Telkwa
- Village of Valemount

Special Thanks

OUR VOLUNTEERS

A BIG thank you to the people and organizations who donated their time and energy to our various programs and events. Their enthusiastic assistance supported the goals of the NWMP.

- PG Naturalists
- Master Gardeners' Prince George
- Spectrum Resource Group Inc.
- Bulkley Valley Garden Society
- and many dedicated individuals

Board of Directors



Claire Watkins, NWIPC Vice Chair, manning the NWIPC info booth

The Board strives to represent the diversity of interests in invasive plant management. It includes representatives from government agencies, the First Nation, utility companies, regional and municipal governments and non-profit associations.

The Board of Directors is responsible for the governance and strategic direction of the NWIPC. It guides the NWIPC staff to ensure the goals and objectives of the organization are met. The Board's willingness to volunteer their expertise and time contributes to the on-going success of the NWIPC.

2018 Board of Directors

Erik Swanson	Board Chair	BC Hydro
Claire Watkins	Vice Chair	City of Prince George
Christine Friedrichsmeier	Secretary	Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resources & Rural Development
Grace Stevens	Treasurer	Accutech Business Services Inc.
Alec Chingee	Director	First Nation
Alvin Cober	Director	Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resources & Rural Development
Janette Derksen	Director	Regional District Bulkley- Nechako
Paul Glover	Director	Northwest BC Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides
Lavona Liggins	Director	Ministry of Agriculture
Raylene Otto	Director	Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure
Trevor Tapp	Director	Nechako Valley Regional Cattlemen's Association
Les Yates	Director	Skeena Valley Cattlemen's Association

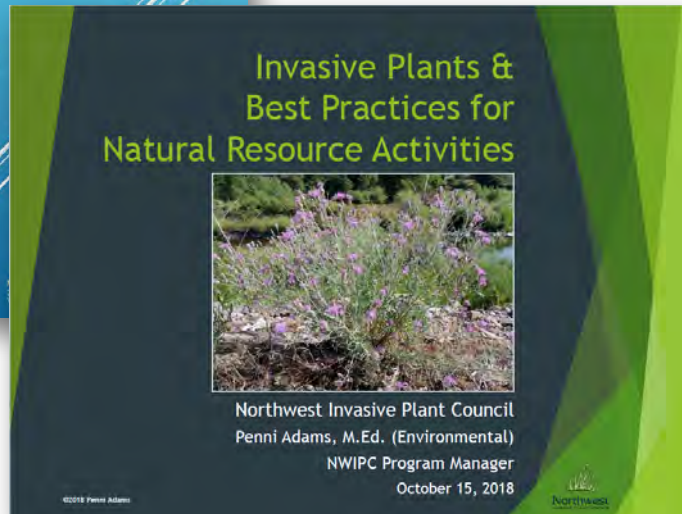


APPENDIX 1: Education & Outreach Examples

Examples of print materials, programs, workshops and displays



Presentations & Workshops



APPENDIX 2: Target Plant List

MED Medium Priority Species		Medium risk/impact; limited distribution – broader population distribution with potential to spread further in a region. Management objective – CONTROL to prevent further expansion to protect unique habitats, agriculture, etc. – may mean establishing containment lines to identify sites outside the line for control.				
LOW Low Priority Species		Low risk; may be widespread or not, may be of concern in specific situations with certain high values – e.g. conservation lands, specific agriculture crops.				
BIO Biocontrol		Species is treated primarily with biocontrol agents or considered under successful biocontrol in an area (e.g. impacts are no longer significant).				
Common Name	Scientific Name	REDRR	HIGH	MED	LOW	BIO
Baby's-breath	<i>Gypsophila paniculate</i>	X	X			
Bishop's goutweed	<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>			X		
Black knapweed	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	X	X			
Bladder campion	<i>Silene cucubalus</i>			X		
Blueweed	<i>Echium vulgare</i>	X	X			
Brown knapweed	<i>Centaurea jacea</i>	X	X			
Bull thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>				X	X
Canada thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>		X			X
Chicory	<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	X	X			
Common bugloss	<i>Anchusa officinalis</i>				X	
Common burdock	<i>Arctium minus</i>	X	X			
Common comfrey	<i>Symphytum officinale</i> L.				X	
Common tansy	<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>			X		
Cypress spurge	<i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i>	X				
Dalmatian toadflax	<i>Linaria dalmatica</i>		X			X
Diffuse knapweed	<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>	X	X			
English holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	X		X		
English ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>			X		
Field scabious	<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	X	X			
Giant hogweed	<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>	X	X			
Gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	X	X			
Greater knapweed	<i>Centaurea scabiosa</i>	X	X			
Hawkweed species	<i>Hieracium</i> spp.	X		X		
Himalayan balsam	<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	X			X	
Himalayan blackberry	<i>Rubus discolor</i>	X	X			
Hoary alyssum	<i>Berteroa incana</i>	X	X			
Knotweed - Bohemian	<i>Fallopia X bohemicum</i>	X	X			
Knotweed - Giant	<i>Fallopia sachalinensis</i>	X	X			
Knotweed – Himalayan	<i>Persicaria wallichii</i>	X	X			
Knotweed - Japanese	<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	X	X			
Leafy spurge	<i>Euphorbia esula</i>	X	X			X
Marsh plume thistle	<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	X				
Meadow goat's-beard	<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>		X			
Meadow knapweed	<i>Centaurea debeauxii</i>	X				X
Mossy stone crop	<i>Sedum acre</i>			X		
Mountain bluet	<i>Centaurea montana</i>	X		X		
Nodding thistle	<i>Carduus nutans</i>	X	X			X
Oxeye daisy	<i>Chrysanthemum leucanthemum</i>				X	
Plumeless thistle	<i>Carduus acanthoides</i>		X			
Purple loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	X	X			X
Russian knapweed	<i>Acroptilon repens</i>	X				
Russian thistle	<i>Salsola kali</i>	X	X			
Scentless chamomile	<i>Matricaria maritima</i>			X		
Scotch broom	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	X	X			
Scotch thistle	<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>	X				
Spotted knapweed	<i>Centaurea stoebe</i>			X		X
St John's-wort	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	X	X			X
Sulphur cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla recta</i>	X	X			
Tansy ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	X	X			X
Wild carrot	<i>Daucus carota</i>	X	X			
Wormwood/absinthium	<i>Artemisia absinthium</i>	X		X		
Yellow archangel	<i>Lamium galeobdolon</i>			X		

APPENDIX 3: Auditor's Report



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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members of Northwest Invasive Plant Council

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Northwest Invasive Plant Council (the Council), which comprise:

- the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2018
- the statement of operations for the year then ended
- the statement of changes in net assets for the year then ended
- the statement of cash flows for the year then ended
- and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies

(Hereinafter referred to as the "financial statements").

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Council as at December 31, 2018 and its results of operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the "***Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements***" section of our auditors' report.

We are independent of the Council in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.



In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Council or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with Governance are responsible for overseeing the Council's financial reporting process.

Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Council's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditors' report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditors' report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Council to cease to continue as a going concern.



Page 3

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation
- Communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

As required by the Society Act (British Columbia), we report that, in our opinion, the accounting policies applied in preparing and presenting financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations have been applied, on a basis consistent with that of the preceding period.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'KPMG LLP'. The signature is written in a cursive, stylized font and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

Chartered Professional Accountants

Prince George, Canada

October 4, 2019



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