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October 13, 2022

VIA EMAIL

Dan Rogers
Chair, Gabriola Island Local Trust Committee
700 North Road
Gabriola Island, BC V0R 1X3

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Further to our telephone conversation on September 22, 2022, this letter provides a formal response to your letter dated August 23, 2022 regarding the use of herbicide on Gabriola Island.

For background, TELUS' herbicide use is managed under our Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPMP), a provincially regulated document which describes all our vegetation management practices within BC. Our vegetation management consultant conducts regular audits of TELUS sites to ensure we meeting regulatory requirements and the practices documented in our IPMP. Vegetation management is critical to ensuring TELUS maintains the integrity of our communication networks. Vegetation growth creates a significant fire hazard around our facilities, and excessive growth can damage sensitive equipment.

This particular issue was first brought to TELUS' attention in June 2022, when operators of the Fiddlehead Spring contacted our vegetation management consultant to express concerns about the use of herbicides and the proximity to the spring collection well. Our consultant conducted a review of the vegetation management at the site and the evidence collected indicated that the herbicide application was in compliance however based on concerns from the community we made the decision to stop using herbicides. To confirm, going forward TELUS will only be utilizing mechanical (mowing/cutting) or natural vegetation control methods on Gabriola Island and have already informed our vegetation management contractors of the new requirements.

In addition, and in light of the concerns from the Island Trust, we have engaged our vegetation management consultant to complete an assessment of all TELUS' vegetation management activities on the Gulf Islands, with the goal to discontinue the use of herbicides.

With respect to the request for water testing, TELUS' environmental consultant is available to conduct this work at your request. Please contact the undersigned to coordinate this work.

TELUS is committed minimizing the environmental impacts of our operations and we work closely with customers and communities to ensure we are meeting those commitments. Further information regarding our overall commitment to sustainability can be found in our publically available Sustainability and ESG Report.

We trust the information provided meets your current needs. Please reach out to the undersigned if you would like to discuss in more detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'BD', is written over a horizontal line.

Brian Daniel
Manager, Environment
TELUS