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August 23, 2022

File No. GB-6410-03; 0110-20-LTC Chairs; 11-5390-30

Via email: sustainability@telus.com

Geoff Pegg
Director – Sustainability & Environment
Telus Garden
510 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, BC, V6B 0M3

Dear Geoff Pegg:

Re: Use of Herbicide on Gabriola Island

I am writing as the Chair of the Gabriola Island Local Trust Committee (“Gabriola Island LTC”) pursuant to a motion passed by the LTC at its regular meeting of July 28th, 2022. The Gabriola Island LTC is part of the Islands Trust which is a special purpose government established by the Provincial Government of British Columbia pursuant to the terms of the Islands Trust Act. The Trust has a regulatory mandate to preserve and protect the Trust Area and its environment, through land use planning, working in cooperation with other agencies to encourage them to support the preserve and protect mandate, and land conservation.

I am writing today to request cooperation. At the meeting, concerns were raised regarding the use of herbicides on vegetation surrounding a Telus facility on North Road just uphill from the ferry terminal on Gabriola Island, likely during the week of July 25th. From signage, this appears to be work done on behalf of Telus. According to signage on the property, the herbicides used included the herbicide “Roundup”.

While the use of this substance anywhere is of concern¹, there is a community drinking water well immediately adjacent to the Telus facility that services a number of downhill users including a pub and the ferry terminal.

I am writing to request the following:

- a) That Telus and any of its contractors cease use of herbicides such as Roundup that may be harmful to humans and ecosystems. We ask that you confirm to us publicly that such use will cease everywhere on Gabriola.

¹ In 2015, the World Health Organization’s International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) identified glyphosate, the world’s most commonly used herbicide, as a probable human carcinogen. Source: <https://www.iarc.who.int/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/MonographVolume112-1.pdf>

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- b) That Telus make arrangements with the property owner where the adjacent well is located to perform testing of the well to ensure that the quality of the water is unaffected by the herbicide use. If testing does show negative impacts, then Telus should immediately notify all water users and take steps to rectify the situation.

We thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to a positive response from you in the near future.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Rogers', is centered on the page.

Dan Rogers
Chair, Gabriola Island Local Trust Committee

Cc:

David Fishwick, A/Director, Health Protection Branch, Ministry of Health
Vanessa Craig, Director - Area B, Regional District of Nanaimo
Gabriola Island Local Trust Committee
Executive Committee
Islands Trust website

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Bowen Denman Hornby Gabriola Galiano Gambier Lasqueti Mayne North Pender Salt Spring Saturna South Pender Thetis