



Reference: WLRS 42393 | ENV 411046

July 18, 2024

VIA EMAIL: kharp@vernon.ca

Mayor Victor Cumming
City of Vernon
3400 - 30th Street
Vernon, British Columbia
V1T 5E6

Dear Mayor Cumming:

Thank you for your letter of June 20, 2024, regarding increased prevention of invasive species spreading in waterways.

We are very pleased to have the new Pull the Plug order in place for the 2024 boating season. This is an important step to further strengthen the British Columbia (B.C.) Invasive Mussel Defence Program's (IMDP) ongoing delivery of the Clean, Drain, Dry directive and to support government's continued actions to keep invasive mussels out of B.C. waterways. We are also completing the work required to determine penalties associated with non-compliance of this legal order.

We want to thank the City of Vernon for continuing to raise the importance of prevention actions such as Pull the Plug, to prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species in B.C. waterways. It highlights the importance of working together across all levels of government. Partnerships and collaboration have been foundational to the success of the IMDP.

Thank you again for your continued support on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Nathan Cullen
Minister
Ministry of Water, Land and Resource
Stewardship

George Heyman
Minister
Ministry of Environment and Climate
Change Strategy