

October 24, 2012

Premier Christy Clark
and members of Cabinet
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C.

Re: Cabinet intervention on disposition of Crown Land – File # 2410612

Dear Premier and Executive Council:

On behalf of residents of Sumas Mountain, City of Abbotsford and British Columbians living throughout the Lower Mainland today and in the future I am requesting a Cabinet intervention in the disposition by lease of crown land (Land file # 2410612) to accommodate a very major rock quarry (aka Golden Dawn and other descriptors) on Sumas Mountain in Abbotsford, British Columbia.

Due to topography, this application for a 100-year lease of crown land to accommodate this large mine will completely eliminate access to well over 1,500 acres of provincial and regional parkland on Sumas Mountain, as well as denying access to a very substantial portion of the remaining thousands of acres of recreational and environmentally sensitive crown lands on the mountain for at least a century.

Attached are two maps, provided by the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources, detailing the boundaries of the proposed quarry/mine. It will be noted that the boundaries of the mine site share, along three sides, the boundaries of Sumas Mountain Regional Park, a former provincial park turned over to the Fraser Valley Regional District.

Sumas Mountain is the only large parcel of crown land within easily accessible reach of the entire Lower Mainland. Its situation in the centre of the Fraser Valley will make it, in coming years, a recreational and natural wilderness magnet for the current population, and the anticipated millions more expected to migrate to the Lower Mainland in ensuing decades.

Additionally, the Ministry of Tourism has spent substantial sums over the past two years developing recreational opportunities for mountain bikers and other users through construction of trails and parking areas. As well, a significant viewpoint (currently situated in the centre of the proposed mine site) has been constructed, and was the venue of a tour earlier this year organized by Metro Vancouver Parks that involved civic and provincial leaders extolling the fabulous views of the Lower Mainland from the site and the enormous recreational value of Sumas Mountain to residents of the entire Lower Mainland.

Not only would the mine destroy most recreational opportunities on the mountain for 100 years, it will create, again due to topography providing a single access/egress route, an industrial highway through the heart of Abbotsford's future residential area. Abbotsford, like the rest of the Lower Mainland, is facing significant growth in the coming decades, and the Straiton Bowl area

through which all the truck traffic must flow is expected to contain thousands of homes in the future, because virtually all of Abbotsford's remaining "undeveloped for residential" lands are contained within the Agricultural Land Reserve.

To further support the argument against this proposed mine, the current quarry operations on Sumas Mountain – six in all – are capable, I am told, of supplying the aggregate needs of the Fraser Valley and adjacent areas for at least 50 years, with one mine on the north side of the mountain expected to be producing for the next 100 years. Thus another mine on Sumas Mountain is neither wanted nor needed.

From an esthetics standpoint, the vast quarry/mine proposed by 266531 BC Ltd of Kamloops to create a 300 acre rock quarry on the Sumas Mountain (Land file # 2410612) site will be visible throughout the western Lower Mainland. Additionally, due to a scarcity of overburden, site remediation can never disguise the massive hole created by a century of blasting and quarrying.

I request that, in the best interests of all British Columbians, Cabinet preserve the valuable recreational resource that is the Crown Lands of Sumas Mountain for the future benefit of all, not to condemn it to limited-employment industrial purposes for least a century by allowing this land disposition application to proceed.

I also suggest that a decision by Cabinet to reject the land disposition application is appropriate at this time, rather than later, to ensure the applicant does not expend further funds on this issue which could become a recompensable liability to government.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Rushton
4890 Sumas Mountain Road
Abbotsford, B.C. V3G 3C1

Attached: Maps of proposed quarry (MLFNRO & FVRD)
 Written opposition to Land file # 2410612
 Newspaper column relating to quarry
 Petition requesting intervention