



# City of Port Moody

## Report/Recommendation to Council

Date: January 6, 2022  
Submitted by: Community Services Department – Environment Division  
Subject: Update on Cigarette Butt Reduction Initiatives

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### Purpose

To report back on Council's resolution on a cigarette butt litter reduction initiative and summarize actions completed and next steps.

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### Recommended Resolution(s)

**THAT staff be directed to continue to incorporate cigarette butt litter reduction initiatives into existing programs and procedures as recommended in the report dated January 6, 2022 from the Community Services Department – Environment Division regarding Update on Cigarette Butt Reduction Initiatives.**

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### Background

In 2019, several requests and initiatives surrounding cigarette butt litter reduction were brought to Council and the Environmental Protection Committee (EPC). The chronology of requests and Council resolutions is outlined below:

- June 22, 2018 Regular Council meeting – Council referred a report from the EPC regarding Cigarette Butt Litter Reduction program to staff for action.
- April 16, 2019 Special Council (Committee of the Whole) meeting – Council received a delegation from *Butt Free BC* requesting support for a public education and awareness campaign for tobacco product waste, and the Burrard Inlet Marine Enhancement Society (BIMES) was awarded a \$3,000 grant towards a \$10,000 project to reduce cigarette butt litter on the streets.
- May 28, 2019 Regular Council Meeting– Engineering and Operations staff provided a memo to council summarizing the various initiatives and requests supporting cigarette butt litter and a recommendation for moving forward. Council passed the following resolution:

#### RC19/263

THAT the request from the April 16, 2019 Butt Free BC delegation be referred to staff to review and report back on a proposed cigarette butt litter reduction program that considers municipal responsibilities and community involvement as recommended in the memo dated May 15, 2019 from the Parks and Environment

and the Engineering and Operations Department regarding Delegation Response – Butt Free BC.

- November 24, 2020 Regular Council meeting – BIMES appeared as delegation and requested permission to reallocate the remaining funds from the Community Grant awarded in April 2019 towards related programming by the Mossom Creek Hatchery and Education Centre; Council passed the following resolution:

RC20/424

THAT the request to reallocate the remaining funds of \$1,900 from the Community Grant for the Butt-Free Program to related alternate uses by the Mossom Creek Hatchery and Education Centre be approved.

## Discussion

In January of 2020, Environment and Parks staff, in collaboration with the Solid Waste Division, began incorporating cigarette butt reduction education and outreach into City programming, and working with BIMES to support a Butt Blitz event as part of our Earth Day celebrations. The Butt Blitz event was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Staff have since conducted a review of City-led and partner-led initiatives that support butt litter reduction and education, including:

### Adopt-a-Street

- This program helps to keep our sidewalks, bike paths, and walkways free of litter. Participants remove litter from a designated section of a City Street at least once a month. To support the program the City provides basic litter collection tools (litter pickers, garbage bags, and hi-vis vests), arranges for the removal and disposal of collected litter, and supplies and installs “Adopt-a-Street” signs to denote participants.
- More than 170 streets are currently adopted by approximately 150 participants across the city. Reports from participants often include cigarette butt removal from a variety of areas.

### Parks Initiatives

- Staff work diligently to keep our parks litter free. City crews support the cigarette butt litter reduction initiative through regularly scheduled park litter picking.
- Starting in May 2020, Park Hosts and a Park Ranger have educated park patrons on smoking prohibitions in parks and on trails (Bylaw No. 2773).
- New signage was developed and installed for the “No Smoking in Parks” message to support public health, reduce cigarette litter, and mitigate wildfire risk in parks.
- Staff are in the process of exploring strategic locations for cigarette litter receptacles at entry points to parks. Current locations being explored include Queen Street Plaza and an entrance to Rocky Point Park.

### City Litter Collection

- Solid Waste staff pick up litter and service 91 garbage receptacles twice a week at bus stops throughout the city. In addition, staff pick up litter around bus stops that do not have a public waste receptacle.

## Earth Day

- Earth Day events celebrate Port Moody's environment and highlight actions our residents can take to enhance it.

## The Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup

- Staff collaborate with organizers to support Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup events by providing equipment and arranging for the disposal of litter collected. Cigarette Butts were the number one item collected by the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup group in 2020.

Given the number of initiatives that contribute to cigarette butt litter reduction, staff recommend building on existing programs and procedures where possible rather than developing a new program. Examples of ways to build on existing initiatives include:

- continue to support volunteers through the Adopt-a-Street Program;
- continue to work with the delegations on incorporating Butt Blitz events and social media campaigns into future Earth Day events;
- ensure messaging about wildfire risk includes proper disposal of cigarette butts in coordination with Port Moody Fire Rescue; and
- increase education and enforcement activity around smoking in parks through the Park Ranger function.

## **Other Option(s)**

THAT the report dated January 6, 2021 from the Community Services Department – Environment Division regarding Update on Cigarette Butt Reduction Initiatives be received for information.

## **Financial Implications**

Costs associated with installing receptacles at parks will be explored as part of ongoing operation, maintenance, and servicing budgets. Development and implementation of additional cigarette butt litter reduction initiatives and programs would require additional staff time and budget.

## **Communications and Civic Engagement Initiatives**

Cigarette Butt Reduction initiatives will be communicated through regular channels and will be incorporated into Earth Day communications and programming and wildfire communications.

## **Council Strategic Plan Objectives**

The recommendation in this report supports the Council Strategic Plan objective of maintaining and enhancing Port Moody's natural and built assets while reducing the impact on our planet.

## **Report Author**

Karen Devitt  
Environmental Coordinator

## Report Approval Details

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|----------------------|---|
| Document Title:      | Update on Cigarette Butt Reduction Initiatives.docx |
| Attachments:         |   |
| Final Approval Date: | Jan 17, 2022  |

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Jeff Moi, General Manager of Engineering and Operations - Jan 13, 2022 - 4:44 PM

Robbie Nall for Julie Pavey-Tomlinson, Director of Environment and Parks - Jan 14, 2022 - 11:17 AM

Ron Higo, General Manager of Community Services - Jan 14, 2022 - 1:18 PM

Tracey Takahashi for Dorothy Shermer, Corporate Officer - Jan 14, 2022 - 4:48 PM

Natasha Vander Wal for Rosemary Lodge, Manager of Communications and Engagement - Jan 14, 2022 - 4:55 PM

Paul Rockwood, General Manager of Finance and Technology - Jan 16, 2022 - 8:36 AM

Tim Savoie, City Manager - Jan 17, 2022 - 10:22 AM