

To: District of Sechelt

Attn: Connie Jordison, Coordinator of Council and Community Relations.

Re: Bylaw 466, 2009 – Prohibit or Control Open Burning in the District of Sechelt

Thank you for Mayor Inkster's letter of June 1. We're a bit late in responding as we were involved with our AGM and the subsequent formation of a new board. Our first meeting wasn't held until July 5 at which time we were briefed by Heather Waddell, representing the Clean Air Society. Considerable discussion followed, as many of those present were new to the subject.

On the whole, the majority of our Board is very supportive of the total elimination of "Landclearing/Slash" burning both for health reasons and as a means of reducing the risk of wild fires as per Kelowna last year. As you may be aware, many of our Sandy Hook residents are very conscious that our terrain is conducive to wild fires and our distance from the Fire Hall combined with our issues with seasonal water pressure is not reassuring.

In regards to provision "C" addressing "Campfires" some of our residents believe that a campfire in the back yard goes along with living in the country and prefer that "Campfires" not be regulated in any way by the District. A number of our residents do support the regulation of "Campfires" per the proposed bylaw but suggest that the curfew time be extended slightly. Finally, some of our residents feel that all open burning, including "Campfires", should be eliminated within the District. In short, there is no consensus on this provision. We would like to note that the Province has, as of July 1, reduced the permissible size of campfires by half and agree that's a step in the right direction and will mitigate certain risks.

It is also worth noting that some of our residents would support "limited open burning of garden refuse" in accordance with the

proposal presented by Sechelt's Fire Chief. Nevertheless, we believe the majority of Sandy Hook residents are comfortable with the current alternative of removal and disposal.

In closing I want to say that the majority of our Sandy Hook Board members are supportive of the proposed changes to Bylaw 466 and we thank the Mayor for giving us the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Kirk Exner
President, Sandy Hook Community Association.