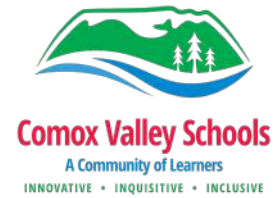


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**Letter to Hornby Island Community Members**

**28 October 2024**

**Subject: After careful consideration Comox Valley Schools will not re-open Tribune Bay Outdoor Education Centre**

Dear Hornby Island Community Members,

After a thorough and collaborative review with our partners in the Qualicum School District and BC Parks, Comox Valley Schools' Board of Education has made the difficult decision not to pursue re-opening the Tribune Bay Outdoor Education Centre (TBOEC). We recognize this news will bring disappointment to many who hold deep connections to the centre and its cherished role on Hornby Island and within our school district.

Located on the Traditional Territories of the K'ómoks First Nation, Tribune Bay is a place of profound cultural and historical importance. For nearly four decades, this special site has offered unique and transformative outdoor learning experiences for students from our district and beyond. These experiences would not have been possible without the tireless dedication, efforts, and heart of the Hornby Island community. Your support and commitment have been instrumental in keeping the centre's spirit alive, and for this, we are immensely grateful.

Over the years, the infrastructure at Tribune Bay has unfortunately deteriorated, with significant upgrades now required to meet today's standards for safety, accessibility, and sustainability. This reality, coupled with the Tribune Bay Outdoor Education Society's inability to continue operating the Centre and the decision by the Qualicum School District not to renew its permit with BC Parks, has led us to re-evaluate our role in operating the centre. Ultimately, we concluded that the extensive resources needed to re-open the centre are beyond the district's capacity at this time.

We wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to longtime caretaker Gord Campbell and his wife, Allison, for their invaluable dedication. They, along with the support of countless volunteers and community members, have made lasting memories for students, provided critical care for the site, and left a lasting legacy.

Thank you, Hornby Island, for the many years of support, volunteerism, and care. Your contributions have been invaluable, and we are deeply appreciative of all that you have done to make Tribune Bay a treasured place for so many over the years.

We remain hopeful that BC Parks and the Ministry of Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship will soon find a new operator for Tribune Bay. We fully support this process and look forward to a future where the centre can once again serve students and visitors in a way that honours its rich history.

Sincerely,

## **The Board of Education, Comox Valley Schools**

Michelle Waite, Chairperson (Lazo North)

Sarah Jane Howe, Vice Chairperson (Village of Cumberland)

Susan L. Leslie (Town of Comox)

Janice Caton (City of Courtenay)

Shannon Aldinger (City of Courtenay)

Chelsea McCannel-Keene (Baynes Sound, Hornby & Denman Islands)

Cristi May Sacht (Puntledge, Black Creek)