

Appendix A

Cape Breton Regional Municipality Declaration – The Right to a Healthy Environment

WHEREAS

the **CAPE BRETON REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY** understands that a healthy environment provides ecosystem services which are essential to ensuring the health and prosperity of current and future generations of human beings and is inextricably linked to the long-term success and well-being of our community;

AND WHEREAS

the **CAPE BRETON REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY** recognizes the cultural and spiritual significance of the environment to indigenous peoples who have historically inhabited Cape Breton (Unama'ki) and have teachings on how to care for planet Earth;

AND WHEREAS

the **CAPE BRETON REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY** supports the Bras d'Or Lakes UNESCO Biosphere Reserve designation recognizing the unique and globally significant habitat of the Bras d'Or Lakes and the Two-Eyed Seeing approach of the Collaborative Environmental Planning Initiative's (CEPI) ongoing work initiated in 2003 by the five Mi'kmaq chiefs of Cape Breton in a unique partnership with Federal, Provincial, Municipal governments to protect, preserve, and promote all aspects of the Bras d'Or Lakes biosphere including water, air, land, forest, aquaculture, agriculture, tourism, and culturally significant sites;

AND WHEREAS

the **CAPE BRETON REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY** recognizes that we have today, a responsibility to live in a way that will not negatively impact the ability of future generations to access clean air, water, food, and nature;

AND WHEREAS

the **CAPE BRETON REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY** recognizes that it is the jurisdictional responsibility of the Province and the Federal Government to protect the environment;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1. the **CAPE BRETON REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY** supports that all Canadians have the right to live in a healthy environment, including:
 - The right to breathe clean air;
 - The right to drink clean water;
 - The right to consume safe food;
 - The right to access nature;
 - The right to know about pollutants and contaminants released into the local environment;
 - The right to participate in decision-making that will affect the environment;

2. The **CAPE BRETON REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY**, within its jurisdiction, will respect, protect, and promote these rights while working to conserve and where reasonable, restore the integrity of the environment through continued work with residents and experts to set objectives, targets, and actions we can all take to address our right to live in a healthy environment including:

- Distribute environmental benefits and burdens within the municipality;
- Ensure infrastructure and development projects protect the environment, including air quality;
- Address climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and implementing adaptation measures;
- Responsibly increase density;
- Promote walking, cycling and public transit as healthy and economical modes of transportation;
- Prioritize infrastructure and protected water sources for the provision of safe and accessible drinking water;
- Promote the availability of safe, local foods;
- Reduce solid waste and promote recycling, re-use, composting and resource recovery;
- Establish and maintain accessible green spaces and conserve nature in public spaces;
- Attract and invest in green businesses, green energy, clean technology and jobs of tomorrow.

3. The **CAPE BRETON REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY** shall send a letter to the Federal Minister of the Environment, Catherine McKenna and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in support of the Blue Dot Movement principles and updating the Canadian Environmental Protection Act and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms to include the right to live in a healthy environment for all Canadians.

4. The **CAPE BRETON REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY** shall send a letter to Nova Scotia Premier Stephen McNeil in support of the need to pass environmental laws for the province of Nova Scotia that are supportive of the principles embedded in the Blue Dot Movement Declaration and the right to live in a healthy environment for all Canadians.

5. A copy of this resolution will be sent to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.