



# COLUMBIA SHUSWAP INVASIVE SPECIES SOCIETY STRATEGIC PLAN 2019 TO 2024

Final Version August 9, 2018

## PURPOSES

The Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society (CSISS) is a non-profit society founded in April 2013 by a group of individuals and organizational representatives who recognized the need for a coordinated regional approach to the growing threat of invasive species in the Columbia Shuswap Regional District. The purposes of the Society (as per the CSISS Constitution)<sup>1</sup> are:

- a) To educate and engage public, private landowners, land and aquatic managers, First Nations and others about invasive species and their impacts.
- b) To establish and operate invasive species management programs.
- c) To do all other things as are incidental and ancillary to the attainment of the above purposes.

## VISION STATEMENT

**The environment, economy and society of the Columbia Shuswap region are protected from the adverse impacts of invasive species.**

## MISSION STATEMENT

**The Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society is a network of partners who facilitate the prevention, reduction and management of invasive species through collaboration, engagement, and education.**

## VALUES

The CSISS will:

- Be collaborative and democratic;
- Ensure the inclusion of multiple perspectives;
- Proactively promote and facilitate partnerships;
- Have a membership that is open and inclusive;
- Respect the values and perspectives of all stakeholders;
- Be transparent and accountable;
- Be independent and non-partisan;
- Operate as a non-profit organization;
- Seek and accept funding from multiple sources.

---

<sup>1</sup> These purposes cannot be changed without bringing a resolution at an AGM.

## GOALS AND STRATEGIES

### Opportunity Statement for 2019-2024 Strategic Plan:

*The Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society's new strategic plan for 2019-2024 provides an excellent opportunity to advance the prevention, reduction and management of invasive species throughout the Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD). Across the region, our partners are identifying and responding to the threats of invasive plants, animals, and diseases. In addition, CSISS and partners are responding to added threats and opportunities that may be associated with climate change and natural disturbances. The environmental, economic, and social costs of invasives on our regional ecology and way of life are continuing to grow as existing invasive species continue to spread and new ones are introduced. There are many great examples of local and regional management efforts taking place through the CSRD, including efforts to prevent the loss of native biodiversity due to invasive species and the ongoing support of restoration of habitat impacted by invasives. In the next five years, CSISS would like to encourage and assist all of its partners to further increase their capacity for achieving on-the-ground results and collectively reducing the spread of existing invasive species and prevention of new introductions.*

The Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society will sustain its coordinating role to engage and support a network of organizations and citizens in their responses to the threat of invasive species through the following goals and objectives:

### GOAL 1: IMPLEMENT A COLLABORATIVE AND COORDINATED PROGRAM

- 1) Develop and maintain operational frameworks for prioritizing invasive species and associated management activities which incorporate landscape-level considerations
- 2) Continue to seek and engage partners for collaborative planning and management, and identify one contact person and one alternate for each partner organization
- 3) Develop and maintain a lead role and central contact for coordination of invasive species management in the Columbia Shuswap
- 4) Develop and maintain a comprehensive inventory and accessible database of species locations, partners' activities, and control methods
- 5) Maintain communications with neighbouring regional invasive species organizations
- 6) Facilitate information transfer to organizational partners through activities, such as networking, forums, and presentations
- 7) Use a web-based platform for joint sharing of information
- 8) Distribute an e-newsletter to share CSISS achievements and promote programs

### GOAL 2: EDUCATE, ENGAGE, AND INSPIRE PARTICIPATION IN INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT

- 1) Engage youth and school children with hands-on activities
- 2) Promote positive messaging about how prevention and invasive species management provides environmental, social, and economic benefits

- 3) Provide education and information transfer on all aspects of invasive species management
- 4) Provide clear messaging on the detrimental impacts of invasive species (e.g. ecosystems, health, recreation, agriculture, species at risk) to promote appropriate behaviours and best management practices
- 5) Use wide array of technological tools for information transfer, including social media and multi-media tools

### GOAL 3: PREVENT THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW INVASIVE SPECIES

- 1) Implement behaviour change programs to promote best management practices for preventing the spread of invasive species
- 2) Provide training programs and best management practices for forestry, horticulture, recreation, road maintenance, and other activities with potential sources of introduction (e.g. reseeding, limiting soil disturbance, not spreading contaminated soil)
- 3) Support invasive species inspection and containment strategies regionally, provincially, and nationally
- 4) Recognize and mitigate threats from adjacent boundaries and other regions, including invasive species and pathways of introduction

### GOAL 4: MAXIMIZE THE PROBABILITY OF DETECTION AND ERADICATION OF NEW INVASIVE SPECIES

- 1) Provide training workshops to key audiences (e.g. naturalist groups, district and municipal maintenance staff, agriculturalists, and forestry workers) for the identification and reporting of high priority invasive species
- 2) Identify gaps in knowledge and conduct inventories
- 3) Identify, update, and implement rapid response protocols
- 4) Advertise and promote “Report Invasives” and “Report-A-Weed” apps
- 5) Promote Invasive Alien Plant Program application (IAPP) and similar databases

### GOAL 5: SLOW OR REVERSE THE SPREAD OF EXISTING INVASIVE SPECIES

- 1) Coordinate partner treatment activities to ensure effectiveness
- 2) Maintain containment lines for species that can be limited to certain portions of the region
- 3) Promote treatments of high priority species and sites as defined by CSISS’s operational framework
- 4) Provide landowner support and outreach for invasive species management
- 5) Support the local government’s ability to use compliance and enforcement (e.g. under CSRD Noxious Weed Bylaw 5110)
- 6) Monitor efficacy of treatments and adopt adaptive management approach
- 7) Identify mechanisms and audiences that are potential pathways of spread of invasive species, and educate target audiences about preventative measures

- 8) Research and promote best management practices
- 9) Support research activities that contribute to reducing the spread and impact of existing invasive species
- 10) Facilitate use of and access to treatment tools in all IPMA's (e.g. sign-out through municipality, store, or organization)
- 11) Where appropriate, consider ecosystem restoration during treatment of invasive species
- 12) Identify sources, promote benefits, and encourage use of native plant species in the region

#### GOAL 6: ENSURE PROGRAM SUSTAINABILITY

- 1) Continue to identify, seek, and engage partners and stakeholders
- 2) Encourage and support board and staff succession planning
- 3) Seek funding from multiple sources and for multiple-years
- 4) Follow and maintain bi-annual fund development plan
- 5) Provide opportunities for stakeholders to regularly meet to ensure program sustainability
- 6) Recognize and acknowledge partners for contributions
- 7) Maintain connection with regional, provincial, and national invasive species networks
- 8) Develop performance measures and monitor effectiveness of programs
- 9) Advertise successes to showcase CSISS's achievements and to encourage and maintain partnerships