

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Slocan Valley Wetland Invertebrate Assessment Tool

The Royal BC Museum, in collaboration with the Slocan Wetland Assessment and Monitoring Project (SWAMP), is offering to maintain and house a voucher collection of macroinvertebrates from Slocan Valley wetlands. A reference collection of specimens from the Slocan watershed maintained by the museum will provide improved quality control of the SWAMP project through ensuring verification, taxonomic consistency, and repeatability. It will also allow for comparisons to other similar projects in the future.

The SWAMP invertebrate project aligns with the Royal BC Museum's goals under the Museum Act. The Royal BC Museum is mandated to increase and communicate knowledge of the natural history and human history of British Columbia by conducting sound research and communicating results to the public through articles, symposia and special presentations.

- In addition, the Royal BC Museum collection priorities include identification, research and monitoring aquatic invertebrate species from areas of British Columbia where information or coverage is meager. This includes interior British Columbia, the Kootenays and the Slocan Valley.
- Sensitive freshwater wetland habitats are also prioritized because they are at the forefront of ecological change with regards to climate warming.

The goals of the SWAMP invertebrate project are to provide information on the health of wetlands in the region and to prioritize wetlands for restoration and conservation. The project has been developed under the guidance of Environment Canada using modified Canadian Aquatic Biomonitoring Network (CABIN) protocols. These methods meet museum specifications for collection, taxonomic identification and storage of specimens (CABIN 2007 & 2012). This project will help to increase our understanding of the Slocan River watershed and improve our knowledge on the biodiversity of British Columbia.

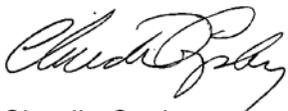
The Royal BC Museum's in-kind support for this project includes:

- approximately \$5000 curation supplies (vial storage cabinets, ethanol, label paper, unit trays)
- 30 days per year of staff time for the curation of the material (approximately \$10,000)
- long - term storage of the voucher specimens, costing approximately \$100 per year.

Specimens curated through this work into the Royal British Columbia Museum holdings will be available in perpetuity for further research and public inquiry.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



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