



SUNSHINE COAST RAW WATER RESERVOIR

shíshálh NATION

July 6, 2023



WATER SUPPLY ISSUES

- Water storage and summer water supply on the Sunshine Coast are inadequate regardless of the amount of precipitation and snow-pack built-up in the winter.
- Annual water use restrictions occur every summer and most recently in 2022, a multi-week state of local emergency was declared for the region lasting until early December.
- Precipitation levels observed so far in 2023 are well below historical averages.

Edwards Lake, the main source of water storage on the Sunshine Coast
(Source: Coast Reporter, Oct. 31, 2022)

“State of emergency declared on B.C.'s Sunshine Coast because of drought”

CBC News Oct. 17, 2022

“SCRD seeks provincial help on water supply as board leaves office”

Coast Reporter Nov. 1, 2022

“Sunshine Coast state of emergency to extend into fourth week”

Coast Reporter Nov. 8, 2022

“Sunshine Coast seeks emergency extension as winter water supply 'uncertain'”

Vancouver Sun Nov 8, 2022

Joint Action



shíshálh Nation considers solving the Sunshine Coast water supply issue a key initial step in promoting healthy, vibrant and sustainable communities, and much more work needs to be done.

Only by working together, shíshálh Nation, SCRCD, and other local governments can we solve the water issues.

The Nation is uniquely positioned due to:

- Holding title and rights throughout shíshálh swiya;
- Being stewards of the land since time immemorial;
- Having strong relationships with local governments, community groups, residents and businesses; and
- Having a long-term partnership with Heidelberg Materials, who could help provide short- and long-term water storage solutions within the sand and gravel mine in Sechelt.

The SCRCD is uniquely positioned due to:

- Having responsibility for water supply and infrastructure; and
- Having strong relationships with local government.

WATER SURETY SOLUTIONS



Urgent action is required by all levels of government to avoid a prolonged and significant water crisis on the Sunshine Coast.

The Nation is working with the Federal government, Provincial government, SCRD, DOS, and TOG to find solutions for residents of the Sunshine Coast. Some potential actions include:

- Putting in place measures to conserve and capture water in all new construction and retrofit buildings as well as dedicate resources to repairing current infrastructure that cause water waste;
- Greater monitoring and education around water usage;
- Taking urgent action to complete the feasibility studies, secure funding, and construct raw water reservoirs; and
- Completing a sustainable growth strategy for the Sunshine Coast.



POTENTIAL SOLUTION

- Work together to advance water storage options on shíshálh lands within the Heidelberg mine site.

POTENTIAL WATER STORAGE



A possible opportunity is to use a partially mined-out pit within the existing sand and gravel mining operation.



Benefits:

- Fast and long-term option – it is available in the near term to contribute to addressing the water storage challenge, knowing that water storage is the future;
- Precautionary principle – Uses an existing industrial site, no further impacts to important values like biodiversity and recreation;
- Location – It is adjacent to the water treatment plant;
- Collaboration – We must all work together to be successful; and
- Quantity – Allowing for greater understanding of water storage availability.

POTENTIAL WATER STORAGE - CONTINUED



Challenges:

- Requires quick action;
- New funding must be made available from Federal or Provincial partners; and
- Permitting.

NEXT STEPS – WORKING TOGETHER



shíshálh Nation and the SCR D will:

- Apply to the Federal government for urgent funding to construct reservoirs;
- Undertake additional studies to better understand this opportunity;
- Further the work of the Water Summits through additional joint actions on water conservation and sustainability; and
- Plan together for a new future with a sustainable water supply recognizing the significant changes we are/will face from climate change.



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