



**TO:** Member/Property Owners Adjacent to 13 Public Beach Accesses RDN Mapped as E-54 to E-66

**SUBJECT:** Many of these accesses are unkept, some now deemed unsafe and environmentally non-compliant.

**HISTORY:** Prior to the advent of the Regional District of Nanaimo ("RDN") in 1967, the provincial government mandated that oceanfront property sub-divided and developed must provide public access to the oceanfront. These accesses were and remain crown land governed by what is today known as the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure ("MOTI"). It is believed 150+ of such accesses exist today throughout the RDN.

In 1967, the RDN became the authority having jurisdiction over what is now called rural Area "E" or Nanoose Bay, as we know it. These public beach accesses remained the jurisdiction of the province or MOTI. For some time now MOTI has had an internal policy along the lines that: "if it is not paved with black top, it will not receive regular repairs and maintenance by MOTI or its maintenance sub-contractors".

**The Issues:** Public Beach Accesses E-53 to E-66, referred to above, date back to the early 1970's. During this 50 year period there has been virtually no management of these crown lands:

1. Some trees, their related windfall and debris have grown to become threats to or hardships for adjacent property owners to manage.
2. That 50 year accumulation of debris and under-burden is now becoming a potential threat of wildfire only compounded by increased public use. We believe some of these crown lands now breach the province's own guidelines known as Fire Smart (residential).
3. Many of these crown lands within our residential neighborhoods are now infested with provincially designated Invasive Species, not limited to Himalayan Black Berry, Holly, English Ivy and Scotch Broom. Adjacent property owners have been left to manage spread of such invasive species to their own and ultimately other properties.
4. Of late and to a limited degree, these crown properties have been used by tents and some overnight camping.

**NNRA Actions to Date:** The NNRA, since its inception in May, 2001 has been periodically called upon and acted for its member/adjacent property owners, to the best of our ability. We have strived to work with and through all local government agencies, with limited success. Over this 20+ year time period, those calls have become increasingly more urgent due to this neglect by MOTI.

The RDN has somewhat supported these concerns by posting: "No Smoking", "No Campfires" & "No Overnight Parking" signs at high use accesses. The RDN will be encouraged to continue and expand this signage.

**Adjacent Property Owner Action Required:**

Should you have concern or have current issues as outlined above, especially due to the threat of falling limbs or trees, address your concerns in writing to the following contact, with a copy to your property insurance agent.

#1) Mainroad Mid Island Contracting, LP  
1435 Springhill Rd.,  
Parksville, B.C. V9P 2T2  
Cell: (604) 312-7329  
Office: (250) 586-8884  
E-Mail: [ijary@mainroad.ca](mailto:ijary@mainroad.ca)  
[www.mainroad.ca](http://www.mainroad.ca)

In the event you have not satisfactorily resolved your concerns through #1) above, please escalate by contacting, also in writing:

#2) James Miskulin, BBA, MCPM.  
Sr. Development Services Officer,  
Min. of Transportation & Infrastructure,  
Vancouver Island District  
(250) 734-4821  
[james.miskulin@gov.bc.ca](mailto:james.miskulin@gov.bc.ca)

NNRA has also been advised that if property damage appears imminent, it would be prudent to contact your property insurer and encourage them to put MOTI on notice in the event of an actual claim and as motivation for their action.

**Summary:**

NNRA, as a volunteer organization, willingly tries to assist and advocate for our members. If you are not a "paid up" member and reading this notice, you simply need to be. Go to: [www.nnra.ca](http://www.nnra.ca)  
Membership fees are only \$10 per annum or \$25 for 3 years.