

**REPORT TO CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT BOARD
MEETING OF JULY 9, 2014**

SUBJECT Protection of First Nations Burial Ground at Grace Islet
(Saltspring Island Electoral Area)

MOTION

WHEREAS development of a private residence on a First Nations burial ground on Grace Islet in Ganges Harbour, Saltspring Island Electoral Area, will result in the desecration of First Nations remains;

AND WHEREAS the Ministry of Forest Lands and Natural Resources Operations Archaeology Branch has issued an Alteration Permit for the site, in the absence of adequate consultation with First Nations;

AND WHEREAS the Capital Regional District is committed to improving relations with First Nations, including ensuring adequate consultation occurs on matters of First Nations interests and mutual interests;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Capital Regional District Board requests that the Ministry of Forest Lands and Natural Resources Operations Archaeology Branch suspend the Alteration Permit issued for Grace Islet, Saltspring Island Electoral Area, to allow consultation and negotiations to proceed between First Nations, the Provincial government and the landowner to ensure protection of this First Nations cultural heritage site.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Capital Regional District Board direct staff to convene an inter-governmental meeting in the autumn of 2014 with representatives of First Nations, the Archaeology Branch, the Islands Trust and the CRD to restore trust and identify specific improvements to development approval procedures that will increase protection of First Nations cultural heritage sites within the Capital Region.



Ben Isitt, Director