



NANAIMO LADYSMITH
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Letter from the Board of Education
December 18, 2019

Lynn Kropinak
Pam Agnew
Broombusters Nanaimo

RE: Scotch Broom

Dear Lynn and Pam,

Thank you for your correspondence dated November 11, 2019. The Board of Education received your email at our Regular Board meeting on November 27, 2019 and referred the letter to staff. I have just recently received an update.

It is my understanding that a representative from our Facilities Department has or soon will be in contact to discuss our partnership for the current school year.

Thank you for your dedication in managing the invasive species found in and around our community!

Sincerely,

Charlene McKay
Board Chair

Karen Matthews

Subject: Invasive scotch broom on SD#68's properties

From: Lynn Kropinak <>

Sent: Monday, November 11, 2019 1:13 PM

To: District Administration Centre Manager <DistrictAdministrationCentreManager@sd68.bc.ca>

Cc:

Subject: invasive scotch broom on SD#68's properties

School Trustees,

Broombusters is a volunteer not for profit organization that is dedicated to eliminating the invasive plant scotch broom. We work very closely with the City of Nanaimo to eradicate this plant. You can visit our website broombusters.org for detailed information about what we do. Broombusters was delighted to read in The Bulletin June 20th of this year that environmental stewardship is now part of school district #68's strategic plan.

For many years we had been broombusting SD#68 schools: Cinnabar, Frank Ney, Georgia Ave and Seaview Elementary as well as Dover Bay High School to name a few. We worked in conjunction with a fellow in your maintenance dept. We would cut and stack the broom on the school grounds and he would ensure it was picked up. This fellow is no longer with the school district.

In 2018, we were contacted by your maintenance department and were asked to stop broombusting on SD#68 property. We immediately stopped. Since that time we have met with the maintenance department to work on a resolution to the broom problem on SD#68 property. It may be that our request and concern is a complicated issue, but the end result is that we have been unable to get a response on this issue from them.

Broombusters would be very happy to work to eradicate scotch broom on your properties. If this is not a possibility, we would be very happy to teach the maintenance staff how to cut broom effectively during the broomcutting season (if broom is cut incorrectly, it grows right back. If cut properly, the plant dies and native plants or grasses grow back.)

Scotch broom causes a miserable allergic reaction in many people (students and teachers included) and is also extremely flammable. The City of Nanaimo has a by-law against growing broom on properties. The Property Maintenance By-Law 1990 no. 3704 states:

"Every owner or occupier of real property or their agents shall clear the property of brush, trees, noxious weeds or other growths that become or remain unsightly." The Internal By-law Policy for Nanaimo re: noxious weeds consist of blackberry, morning glory, giant thistle, english ivy and SCOTCH BROOM."

We would very much like to continue helping the school district gain control over this invasive plant on its property. We look forward to hearing from you about how we can together achieve this environmental stewardship on SD#68 properties.

If you would like a presentation done to your school board on the issue of the invasive scotch broom we would be very happy to do this.

Sinceely

Lynn Kropinak & Pam Agnew
Broombusters Nanaimo