

1. Invasive plant species. There is a directive from BFRD that it is everyone's responsibility to control the noxious weeds on their property, to pull, bag, label then ask for pick up from FVRD. Hogweed, Toxic Japanese Knotweed & wild Clematis are a bad. FVRD and Fraser Valley Invasive Plant Council have received some funding to help with this project. These are introduced species & displace native vegetation, cause damage both economically, environmentally and at times health risks - generally messing up the area.

2. There have been high levels of Toxic flame retardants in lower mainland raptors including one Cooper's Hawk in Langley with the highest level of the contaminants ever recorded in a wild bird. This is used in furniture carpets & electronics. There are more wild species adapting to urban areas where they encounter high levels of pollutants which can then bioaccumulate in top predators eg: hawks eat Starlings that have often fed on garbage. Biologist Kyle Elliot says they know these brominated flame retardants are connected with hormone use. The level of contaminants in the hawk was 100x higher than levels known to decrease thyroid levels in eagles & suppress immune system in Kestrel. More research is underway to gauge sources & effects of chemicals on a breeding group of Cooper's Hawk in Water Vca.

3. The province is offering a bounty on any Pike caught on 5 east BC. If you catch a Pike in Canadian section of the Columbia or Pend - d' Oreille Rivers bring its head to office of Ministry of Forests in Castlegar & you will gain entry to a draw for 1 of 4, \$500 prize in the form of credit for fishing equipment in participating sporting goods stores -

which will take place March 25, 2016

They are native to much of North Eastern BC. They were illegally introduced in the Pood Quilla R in the US and are now working their way down stream into the Columbia River tributaries wrecking havoc as they go. They are voracious predators eating large quantities of Rainbow trout. They threaten native fish by competing for their food and its feet that left unchecked they will impact the recovery efforts of white sturgeon & shorthead sculpin in the Columbia R. They are also known to carry disease and pesticides that could harm local fish. The provincials also done some netting to control their pop. - and the contents of their stomachs showed they had eaten 3-4 lb. Rainbows.

They are the worst kind of species to have in any kind of ecosystem because they eat all the Kookone, the whitefish and Rainbows and they aren't good to eat.

4. There is a tiny isolated town of 400 on a fragile barrier island along the Chukchi sea which can't be reached by road, 125 K above the Arctic Circle. For generations the Eskimos of the region have hunted gigantic bowhead whales from camp atop the sea ice, that stretches out from the town but climate change has thinned the ice so much it is now too dangerous and it will soon be too dangerous for anyone to live there. The ice doesn't freeze like it used to - from 10-8 ft way out into the ocean.

The question now is, whether to move the people of Kivalina to a safer area but who will pay for it. This will apply to numerous other towns along the coast line in decades to come. Climate change is not

future threat but more a daily force felt in drastic changes to weather, loss of traditional means of making a living like whale hunting & also loss of land. The role the US govt will play is still an open question. Money has been promised to help native communities grapple with climate change in the short term but it's not enough for relocating. Other funding may have to come from other sources a problem that is sure to re-visit here more frequently, first in the Arctic where climate change is stark & rapid, but also later as it increasingly affects coastal cities around the world. There has been one climate change relocation abroad to a small village in Fiji, it was moved unless by the govt. There is an agency that has the responsibility to relocate a community not the funding. To do it so it means that communities like Kirilani have to know what steps they need to get which govt agencies involved but just bringing this story out is getting the situation some attention & will help the world to understand what's happening. For the village of Kirilani the risk is all about the thinning Arctic sea ice - a phenomenon plainly visible from the sky. The scenery reflected what multiple scientists have said about the changing Arctic. It's warming at 2x the rate of anywhere else on earth. One reason is a climate "feedback" in which rising temp melts the ice. Then the loss of highly reflective sea ice exposes darker ocean water below. The darker sea absorbs more solar radiation - retaining more heat and leading to still more ice melt. Arctic sea ice

extent in January was at its 3rd lowest level on record for that month - especially low in the Bering Sea. We need to prepare for the future

There is also the problem of toxic chemicals that had been captured in the ice when brought to the north from the south by winds etc, are now released in the melting and the natives find a lot in their food.

5. - It seems that Metro Vancouver is realizing that the Aquinas processing facility should be subjected to a provincial environmental assessment when concerns were raised about potential risk to downstream communities in the event of a spill. The province is thinking about it but has asked Aquinas to have <sup>not</sup> public consultation

6. There will be a public hearing May 19 about the zoning of farmland on Higginson Rd to allow for 278 homes. On March 5, 2014 the ALC approved the removal application which was put forth by local ALR consultant Geoff Sanborn. many know of him, its bound to be quite loud as many are upset so if you're interested you should read the <sup>staff</sup> report.