

Regarding the Garden City Lands 5555 No. 4 Road

*Richard and Shirley Wolfe*

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*Richmond, BC*

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Thank You Mayor and Councilors.

My name is Shirley Wolfe

I am a life-time resident and taxpayer of Richmond .

I have lived my entire life in the vicinity of the Garden City Lands.

We ask that the Garden City Lands be not taken out of the ALR and not be used for more high-density housing in Richmond.

For the Reasons of Health Issues.

As an employee of The Richmond Hospital, I feel obligated to point out that our community hospital is already stretched to the limit by the rapid growth of Lulu Island's population in recent years. Nevertheless, City of Richmond planners have consistently turned a blind eye to the crisis. As a result, our emergency rooms are busting at the seams and the wards are overcrowded. In response to what has become an intolerable situation, more and more Richmond residents are "voting with their feet" and choosing to pay the additional costs of home care. If this situation is not rectified, I have little

Please don't blame our Provincial Health Minister for this overcrowding at the Richmond Hospital. Our Health Minister, whoever it would be, has the entire province to consider handing out Health Care money to, we are not an exception. We can only blame ourselves for the overcrowding in our hospital. It is a consequence of Richmond's longstanding policy of allowing the unchecked expansion of high-density housing in our community.

It is for that reason that I ask the Mayor and City Councilors to reconsider this misguided proposal to remove the Garden City Lands from the ALR.

My son, Michael Wolfe, has spent many tireless hours trying to bring these issues to your attention, and I can only hope that someone is listening. When his Great-Grandparents immigrated to East Richmond in the 1940s, they cultivated many acres of Lulu Island, raising livestock and crops on good soil that now lies under parking lots and condo townhouses. The ALR was created by people who recognized these lands as a resource worth protecting. That earlier generation did *not* set these lands aside so that you could squander it on more high-density housing in Richmond. With that in mind, I think we should applaud Michael and others from the *next* generation for their efforts to see these lands preserved.

With that, I would like to thank the Mayor and all our Councilors for letting me speak this evening.