

CITY OF BURNABY

ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR  
AND COUNCILLORS

**RE: GUICHON CREEK - BCIT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** Council authorize the City to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with BCIT regarding the portion of Guichon Creek which flows through the BCIT campus, as outlined in this report.
2. **THAT** the Memorandum of Understanding be signed by the Mayor on behalf of the City at the Burnaby Lake System Project reception, hosted by BCIT, on 2001 November 27.

R E P O R T

The Environment and Waste Management Committee, at its Open meeting held on 2001 November 13, received and adopted the *attached* report outlining a Memorandum of Understanding between the City and BCIT regarding that portion of Guichon Creek which flows through the BCIT campus. This MOU provides a level of protection for the creek which is greater than that afforded by the BCIT Campus Master Plan. This form of voluntary protection and commitment by BCIT to a standard which is otherwise not guaranteed is considered extremely progressive from an environmental perspective.

: COPY - CITY MANAGER  
- DIRECTOR ENGINEERING  
- DIR. PLNG. & BLDG.  
- DIR. PARKS, REC. & CULT. SERV.  
- CITY SOLICITOR

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor D. Johnston  
Chair

Councillor C. Redman  
Vice Chair

Councillor B. Der  
Member

**TO:** CHAIR AND MEMBERS  
ENVIRONMENT & WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
November 9, 2001

**FROM:** DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING  
OUR FILE:11.270.6

**SUBJECT:** GUICHON CREEK - BCIT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

**PURPOSE:** To present a Memorandum of Understanding between the City and BCIT regarding that portion of Guichon Creek which flows through the BCIT campus.

---

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. **THAT** the Environment and Waste Management Committee recommend to Council that the City enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with BCIT regarding the portion of Guichon Creek which flows through the BCIT campus, as outlined in this report.
2. **THAT** the Memorandum of Understanding be signed by the Mayor on behalf of the City at the Burnaby Lake System Project reception, hosted by BCIT, on 2001 November 27.

**REPORT**

**1.0 BACKGROUND**

Guichon Creek flows from its headwaters in the Chaffey-Burke neighbourhood to Still Creek, as indicated on Figure 1, *attached*. Portions of the creek to the south of BCIT is culverted, while the open portions have been dedicated as parkland by bylaw through subdivision, as well as through public referendum.

The BCIT Pioneers are a group of faculty and staff members who worked at BCIT on or before 1966 June 15, the occasion of the first graduation ceremony. The Pioneers work to support the BCIT community and to provide a link to its past through a variety of awareness raising events as well as commemoration projects. Guichon creek flows through the BCIT campus, of which about half remains open and free flowing. As a millennium project, the group lobbied the BCIT Board of Governors to commit to protecting the open portion of the creek on campus. The Board concurred, and this protection is also confirmed in the BCIT Campus Master Plan.

To further ensure the protection of the creek, members of the Pioneers met with the Mayor and staff to discuss options related to the permanent protection of Guichon Creek that could be achieved within BCIT's mandate.

After examining various options, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was proposed by BCIT as a vehicle to further demonstrate the Institute's commitment to environmental stewardship on its campus, and to provide a tangible example of how voluntary action can help improve an urban stream. This voluntary commitment by BCIT would specify the parameters of protection that BCIT would afford the creek, with the goal being to secure an increased level of protection and enhancement for Guichon Creek through the campus. The Board of Governors endorsed this, and forwarded a draft MOU to the City for concurrence. The following outlines the final draft of the MOU, as endorsed by members of the Board of Governors and the BCIT Pioneers.

## 2.0 SUMMARY OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The final draft of the MOU is *attached*. The MOU specifies that the City and BCIT agree to pursue the following three goals:

- (i) ensure that the open portion of Guichon Creek flowing through the BCIT campus be managed to ensure its long lasting protection and enhancement;
- (ii) that Guichon Creek serve as an example of the possibilities available to revitalize an urban waterway; and
- (iii) that opportunities for daylighting the piped portion of Guichon Creek flowing through the BCIT campus be pursued as they become available.

The MOU also specifies that BCIT will commit to the following:

- that any development meet or exceed the requirements of the Streamside Protection Regulations, the Land Development Guidelines and other applicable environmental regulations;
- that future campus development will focus on the already disturbed lands (i.e. parking lots) and minimize encroachment on the existing forested area along the west side of the southern portion of the creek, in accordance with the *BCIT Master Plan 1997 Update*, and seek to protect and manage this forest in the south as natural vegetation in perpetuity;
- to use its best efforts to daylight currently piped portions of the creek to improve fish passage and habitat;
- that at time of redevelopment, use best management practices and site design to

ensure that in the future water flowing from the site more closely mimics natural flow and water quality conditions; and

- to support the efforts of BCIT students, staff and other partners in the Fish, Wildlife, Recreation program to further enhance the creek.

### 3.0 CONCLUSION

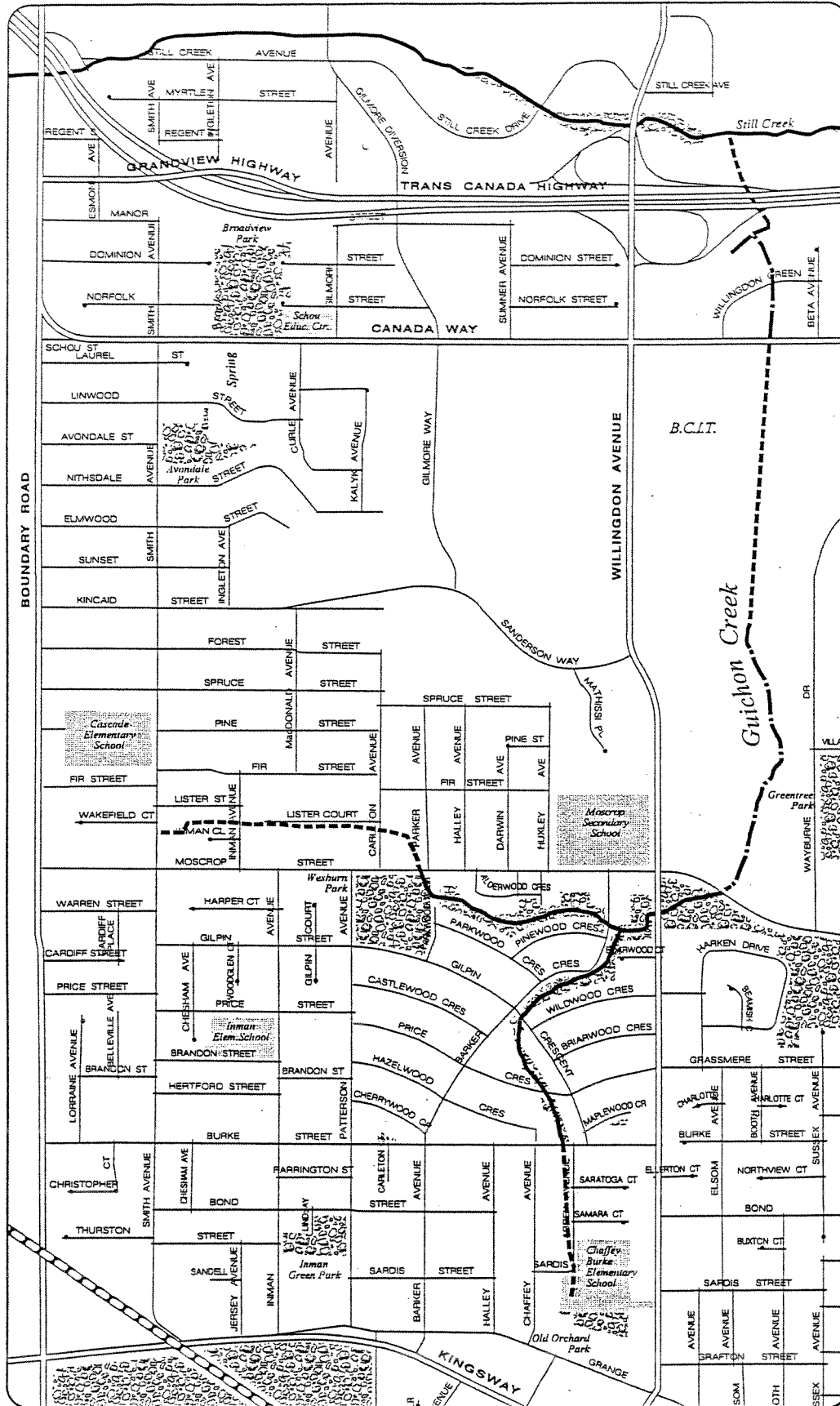
The MOU, as drafted, provides a level of protection for that portion of Guichon Creek on the BCIT campus greater than that afforded by the BCIT Campus Master Plan. This form of voluntary protection and commitment by BCIT to a standard which is otherwise not guaranteed is considered extremely progressive from an environmental perspective. Both the BCIT Pioneers, who initiated this process, and the BCIT Board of Governors are fully supportive of the draft MOU.

It is recommended that the Environment and Waste Management Committee recommend to Council that the City enter into an MOU with BCIT regarding the portion of Guichon Creek which flows through the BCIT campus as outlined in this report. BCIT has proposed that the MOU be signed at the Burnaby Lake System Project Reception, scheduled for 2001 November 27. This is an annual event hosted by BCIT to recognize and thank their many environmental partners in the Brunette basin.

*B. Rukshin-1*  
for J.S. Belhouse, Director  
PLANNING AND BUILDING

KSF

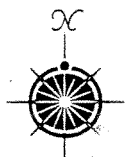
- cc. City Manager  
Director Engineering  
Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services  
City Solicitor  
City Clerk



GUICHON CREEK

Figure 1

DEDICATED AND OPEN      UNDEDICATED AND OPEN      CULVERTED



**Draft**  
**Memorandum of Understanding**  
**Between**  
**The City of Burnaby and**  
**The British Columbia Institute of Technology**

**Guichon Creek**

---

**JOINT STATEMENT OF INTENT**

The City of Burnaby (the "City") has long supported the preservation and enhancement of local waterways, as evidenced by the City's open watercourse policy, Streamkeepers' Program, significant parks and open space property acquisitions, and being the first municipality to proclaim BC Rivers Day in 1993.

The British Columbia Institute of Technology ("BCIT") has a long history of environmental stewardship, as evidenced by the Watershed Pledge Program, stream mapping and inventory work, nest box installation and monitoring program, smolt enumeration, purple loosestrife removal and other programs administered by the Fish, Wildlife and Recreation Program.

Together, the City and BCIT have partnered on environmental stewardship activities in the Brunette Basin through the Burnaby Lake System Project, jointly sponsoring community events for Environment Week and BC Rivers Day, and effecting enhancements with the help of local stewards.

Through these endeavours, the City and BCIT strive to provide leadership in the protection of our urban waterways. Guichon Creek is an urban waterway which flows through the BCIT campus. Given this shared interest and partnering history, the City and BCIT now enter a Memorandum of Understanding, whereby the City and BCIT agree to a common purpose with the intent of achieving the desired outcomes:

- (i) That the open portion of Guichon Creek flowing through the BCIT campus be managed to ensure its long lasting protection and enhancement;
- (ii) that Guichon Creek serve as an example of the possibilities available to revitalize an urban waterway; and
- (iii) that opportunities for daylighting the piped portion of Guichon Creek flowing through the BCIT campus be pursued as they become available.

**THEREFORE, THE CITY OF BURNABY AND THE BRITISH COLUMBIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AGREE AS FOLLOWS:**

1. BCIT and the City of Burnaby are committed to protecting Guichon Creek and the riparian area in perpetuity.

2. The creek will remain open and free flowing.
3. For any new development on campus, BCIT will meet or exceed the requirements of the Streamside Protection Regulations, the Land Development Guidelines and other applicable environmental regulations.
4. Future campus development will focus on the already disturbed lands (i.e. parking lots) and minimize encroachment on the existing forested area along the west side of the southern portion of the creek, in accordance with the *BCIT Master Plan 1997 Update*. BCIT will seek to protect and manage this forest in the south as natural vegetation in perpetuity.
5. As redevelopment occurs, BCIT will use its best efforts to daylight currently piped portions of the creek to improve fish passage and habitat.
6. At time of redevelopment, BCIT will use Best Management Practices (BMPs) and site design to ensure that in the future water flowing from the site more closely mimics natural flow and water quality conditions. BMPs include, but are not limited to, minimizing impervious surfaces and using technologies such as detention chambers and biofiltration ponds.
7. BCIT is committed to continuing and supporting the efforts of BCIT students, staff and other partners in the Fish, Wildlife, Recreation program to further enhance the creek.
8. BCIT will pursue joint watershed enhancement projects with the City of Burnaby and other stakeholder groups. These might include:
  - habitat enhancement such as streamside vegetation
  - interpretative signs explaining the value and benefits of the creek
  - “complexing” the channel with features that provide protection and refuge for fish.
9. BCIT and the City of Burnaby are committed to on-going communication and dialogue to address mutual issues.

