

To: Mayor and Council, District of Highlands

From: Highlands Sustainability Strategy Advisory Committee

Date: 8 December 2011

Re: Highlands Integrated Community Sustainability Plan

At its November 27, 2011 meeting the Highlands Sustainability Strategy Advisory Committee completed its mandate by passing a motion recommending that Highlands Council adopt the Highlands Integrated Community Sustainability Plan. This plan, entitled “Sustainable Highlands”, was prepared by the Whistler Centre for Sustainability using its experience and expertise to interact with the Highlands community, the Sustainability Strategy Advisory Committee and the Highlands Planner. The work and final report of the Highlands Sustainability Task Force provided the starting point.

As individuals, communities and nations, we are facing unprecedented challenges. Climate change, depletion of cheap fossil fuels, degradation of the natural environment and crumbling of economic systems are being felt around the world. Faced with these challenges, “Sustainable Highlands” asks the questions ‘What kind of community do we want to have in the year 2030? And ‘How are we going to get there?’ The Highlands sustainability plan provides a framework for changing our actions now to decrease our impact on the earth and to build a resilient and thriving community that can successfully respond to the changes that are inevitably coming. “Sustainable Highlands” is a beginning. It is an invitation to all Highlands residents to take part in shaping our future. The Highlands sustainability plan will be revised and adapted as circumstances change and new issues and opportunities arise. Above all it is a plan to be implemented as we “join the hundreds of communities around the world who are taking the steps toward making a nourishing and abundant future a reality” (Rob Hopkins, The Transition Handbook.)

The Sustainability Strategy Advisory Committee wishes to thank Highlands Council for the support and resources provided to produce an Integrated Sustainability Community Plan. Achieving sustainability in the Highlands is a vital task for our community. It is the hope of the committee that Council will move ahead quickly on this important work.