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January 11, 2011

Media Release

NALT to Take on Long-term Strategies for the Nanaimo River

At a special December meeting of the Board of the Nanaimo & Area Land Trust, a motion was approved unanimously which states in part that: *Given that protection of the Nanaimo River has been a long- term goal of the Nanaimo & Area Land Trust, the Board agrees to work together with a broad base of...stakeholders and interests, with the objective of developing long-term strategies for the protection of the Nanaimo River and the surrounding watershed....*

In a second part of the motion, the NALT Board agreed to the following actions in 2011:

- a) to produce a comprehensive baseline report that will identify the bio-diversity values of the Nanaimo River watershed (including water quality, fish habitat, cultural values, wildlife values and corridors, recreation opportunities, forestry values, development threats, food security etc); and
- b) to organize and facilitate a symposium in the fall of 2011 with a goal of initiating dialogue among stakeholders that will lead to integrated long-term strategies for the protection of the Nanaimo River.

“This is the start of an initiative that could take decades to achieve.” says Board co-chair Dean Gaudry, “ It is much bigger than anything that NALT has undertaken before, and we are under no illusion that NALT can do this alone. NALT’s main role will be to facilitate the process – to get it started, and to assist the development and implementation of long-term strategies for the river in any way we can.”

NALT’s first challenge will be to find funding for a baseline report on the river’s many values, and to have that report completed in time for a fall symposium. The intent is to hold the symposium on the weekend of World Rivers Day, which falls on September 25th—the last Sunday of September.

For more information, contact NALT at 250-714-1990, or visit the NALT website at www.nalt.bc.ca .

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