

# STOP THE HOPE CEMETERY PIT EXPANSION

An important update for all our petition signatories.

Questions? Please email [stopthehopegravelpit@gmail.com](mailto:stopthehopegravelpit@gmail.com) or visit our [FB page](#)

## A possible, Hopeful, solution to gravel concern

**Editor:**

Further to the townhall meeting held at the Hope Community Centre on Friday (Feb. 21), we the people of Yale First Nation wish to propose one possible solution to the community's concerns about the proposed 50-year expansion of the Cemetery Pit in downtown Hope.

We at Yale First Nation have partnered with Vine Maple Sand & Gravel (VM) for the development of a new sand and gravel pit on Yale First Nation's historic lands in Yale.

The location is approximately 10 kilometres from downtown Hope. Sufficiently distant to address most, if not all, of the concerns raised in the townhall meeting. And yet close enough to allow for the prompt and economic delivery of aggregates for Hope's expanding industries.

Vine Maple has the legal and environmental expertise to address the concerns raised on Feb. 21 and has already received letters of

support from the majority of Yale residents proximal to our site.

In addition to addressing environmental issues, employment opportunities and a steady supply of cost-effectively deliverable aggregates, Yale First Nation in conjunction with our partner has developed a three-pronged First Nation's training (operational, environmental, and commercial) for local First Nation members, as well as other Indigenous communities up the river.

Vine Maple is a new aggregate supply business located near Hope. It is currently waiting for the issuance of its Mines Act Permit to commence activities. The VM team shares a commitment to social justice and reconciliation. This commitment has led to the development of a training program intended to support and develop capacity of First Nations to capitalize on the business opportunity provided by supplying aggregate to construction projects. This

training program will be developed in house with some components that are from existing educational institutions such as Royal Roads University and the British Columbia Institute of Technology. This program is designed for Indigenous learners who are interested in acquiring the knowledge to develop and operate aggregate quarries on their own traditional territories.

The program will be comprised of modules that cover the following aspects of aggregate quarry operations including environmental, commercial, and operational modules.

Once Vine Maple is in operation, the training program will be conducted at the operating quarry providing a real-life outdoor classroom.

The intent of this program, to be delivered by VM, is to give back to the local Indigenous communities whose traditional territories VM is located on. Once developed, this training program has the potential to be delivered

beyond the immediate area where VM is located. Preliminary discussions with Kitselas First Nation in Terrace, regarding this training program, were very well received and the program could be delivered at other locations once established.

We at Yale First Nation have come to understand that the Feb. 21 townhall meeting was held only after the official deadline had closed for community input and comment to the Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals; surprising. With all the issues and concerns presented, such as the possibility of effluents/leachates finding their way into Kawkawa Lake, constant dust coating local residences, quarry blasting and related noises, heavy truck traffic, visual impacts to the scenery, etc., is there a better alternative? We believe so.

The deadline for First Nation's input and comment to the Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Low Carbon Innovation

(EMLI) on this expansion application is open until March 3. If you would like your concerns to be heard by EMLI, we have a solution.

We kindly ask those residents of Hope NOT interested in supporting this 50-year expansion but would prefer our burgeoning sand and gravel business as the best option for both Hope's and Yale's future aggregate needs, to consider downloading, signing, and sending your scanned letters of support to use at Yale First Nation. We will include your letters as part of our submission to the EMLI by close of business March 3.

**Chief Troy Peters,  
Yale First Nation**

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We thank Chief Peters of Yale First Nation for his letter (shown above) published on page 7 of today's Hope Standard newspaper. We have been asked to share this with all petition signatories and supporters of Stop the Hope Cemetery Pit Expansion. Compared to the Cemetery Pit expansion, we feel that—for many people—this proposal could potentially offer a more acceptable sand & gravel solution.

Please take a few moments to read and digest the letter. If you feel that you would like to add your voice to this proposal, we include a template letter below (see p3 & 4 of this newsletter) and instructions of how and where to submit it.

**1. PLEASE REVIEW CHIEF PETER'S LETTER ABOVE AND THE LETTER TEMPLATE BELOW TO SEE IF YOU AGREE WITH THE PRINCIPLES**

**2. IF YOU DO, PLEASE EMAIL A VERSION OF THE LETTER TO THE DISTRIBUTION LIST SHOWN BY 3 MARCH, INCLUDING ANY ADAPTATIONS YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE.**

**3. FIELDS IN BOLD WILL OR MAY REQUIRE YOU TO MAKE SOME ADJUSTMENT / PERSONALIZATION.**

A key requirement is that the Ministry of Mining & Critical Minerals (MCM) require you to provide brief information on how the Cemetery Pit expansion application affects or interests you - so please do not remove the first sentence of the template letter, although you may amend it if it does not fit your circumstances.

On the following pages, you will find a suggested template letter that you can copy and paste into your email, adapting it as you wish. A Word version for easier copy and pasting is available to view on our google drive [here](#).

It is an important principle of Stop the Hope Cemetery Pit Expansion that alternative proposals show a commitment to addressing the type of concerns that so many Hope residents have voiced about the Cemetery Pit expansion. We are pleased that Chief Peters mentions addressing these concerns in his letter, and also that his letter mentions that his proposal has "received letters of support from the majority of Yale residents proximal to our site."

It is a completely personal choice as to whether you would like to share your opinion about Chief Peter's proposal via the attached template letter; this proposal is something we have been asked to raise awareness of, so that individuals can make this choice.

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## Date

**Name:**

**Contact Details:**

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Reference: Hope Ready Mix [HRM] – Cemetery Pit Notice of Work – G-7-170 Amendment

This application interests me because **I am a resident of Hope who will be personally affected by one or more of the issues described below.**

As a **resident** of the community of Hope, I understand from information presented in the Hope Standard on 28 February, that Yale First Nation has submitted a proposal that may provide a suitable alternative sand & gravel supplier, potentially negating the need for an expansion of the Hope Cemetery Pit. We hope that this proposal may address the concerns raised by over 800 Hope residents and supporters who have signed the Stop the Hope Cemetery Pit Expansion petition, and others voicing similar concerns regarding the proposed expansion of the Hope Cemetery Pit.

As you know, local concerns regarding the Cemetery Pit include the potential for:

- Environmental and ecological harm
- Detrimental impact on the health, safety and quality of life of residents from chronic noise exposure, dust, etc.
- Detrimental impact on the natural beauty of the area and on Hope's ability to successfully market itself as a tourism destination focused on outdoor activities and recreation (one of our District's key aims under our community plan).
- Lack of compliance with Hope's community plan (see below)



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- Negative impact on property values
  - Costly damage to District infrastructure
  - Road safety issues
  - Damage to personal property

We also do not believe that the Cemetery Pit expansion would be compliant with key elements of Hope's official community plan, bylaw 1434. In developing this plan, our community set out to help Hope successfully move away from some less sustainable industries into viable new long-term directions such as tourism. We believe the expansion would not be compliant with the following aspects of the plan:

Community Plan Introduction:

"Previously, Hope was a resource-focused community relying on forestry, transportation, and mining. Now, Hope is transitioning to a service-based economy, providing an inviting place for young families and retirees with plenty of opportunities for outdoor recreation and tourism."

Community Plan Goals:

"Hope's natural areas are protected as key community assets, including ecosystem integrity, biodiversity, and air and water quality."

"Tourism and economic development efforts in Hope focus extensively on the area's natural beauty."

Community Plan Vision:

"In 2040, Hope will be a progressive mountain community offering a high quality of life, connecting people to nature, each other, and themselves. With its natural amenities and scenic beauty, Hope will be a vibrant, healthy, and active community based on socially and environmentally responsible economic development."

I therefore wish to give my support for consideration to be given to Yale First Nation's proposal as a potential alternative source for sand and gravel needs. I would wish to ensure that this proposal addresses the concerns raised above and also meets the needs and has support from the community local to the vicinity of the proposed mine.

I also state my objection to the issuance of the expansion permit for the Cemetery Pit currently under consideration by the Ministry of Mines.

Yours sincerely

**Name and contact details**