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Town of Gibsons Issues Stop Work Order at Gospel Rock

January 6, 2021 – The Town of Gibsons has issued a stop work order at the Gospel Rock – Block 7 development following a breach in conditions outlined in the site’s Development Permit (DP).

“On December 21st, at a site meeting to discuss future tree-cutting, staff noticed that two trees in the lot’s designated Conservation Area had sustained minor damage during earlier tree removal,” said Lesley-Anne Staats, Director of Planning at the Town of Gibsons. *“We also discovered that a buffer zone at the edge of the protected area had been surveyed and flagged at five metres, instead of the 10 metres stipulated in the Development Permit. As a result, at least one tree may have been felled in the buffering root protection zone. Among the Town’s conditions for issuing the Block 7 DP were that an Environmental Monitor always be present on-site to oversee tree removal and that no disturbance of trees occur in the root protection zones of the Environmentally Sensitive Areas. As these two conditions had not been met, a Stop Work Order was issued immediately.”*

The Stop Work Order will remain in place until the Town is confident that measures have been put in place to ensure that no similar incident occurs in the future. A Registered Professional Biologist’s report on the incident, as well as recommended next steps, was received by the Town on January 5, 2021 and is currently being reviewed by staff and Council. The report recommends the two damaged trees be retained and monitored at future site visits.

Updates on the stop work order, as well as a Frequently Asked Questions sheet, will be posted at gibsons.ca/block-7-gospel-rock as they become available.

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For more information, please contact:

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“Nature is our most valuable asset”