

## OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

**For immediate release - October 15, 2013**

DELTA – The Corporation of Delta and Metro Vancouver, as joint owners of Burns Bog, a protected nature reserve in Delta, and the largest raised peat bog on the west coast of North America have commenced a civil action in BC Supreme Court against Princess Farms Ltd., Matcon Landfill Management Inc., and Matcon Civil Constructors Inc.

The Corporation of Delta and Metro Vancouver allege that damage to Burns Bog was caused by soil deposit activities that were carried out on the adjacent Princess Farms property. These activities allegedly occurred by or under the supervision of Matcon Landfill Management Inc., and/or Matcon Civil Constructors Inc. It is also alleged that the soil deposit was contrary to the terms of an approval issued by the Agricultural Land Commission which required that the fill be carried out in accordance with a consultant’s report, which designated an area near the Bog where fill would not be placed due to a risk of resulting damage to the Bog.

The total Burns Bog area affected by the soil deposit activities is estimated to cover 17,000 square metres. Affected areas of Burns Bog include vegetation, trees, wildlife habitat and the peat bog itself, which suffered tearing, heaving and the vertical and lateral displacement of the peat bog near where fill was placed on native peat on the adjacent farm land. Run off from the fill may also affect the Bog’s chemistry.

This legal action has been taken in order to protect Burns Bog, which was purchased in 2004 by The Corporation of Delta, Metro Vancouver and the Province of BC, with financial assistance from the Government of Canada. The Corporation of Delta and Metro Vancouver jointly manage the property to preserve and protect those features of the lands that are characteristic of a raised bog ecosystem, as well as the unique natural, scientific, environmental, wildlife and plant life values relating to the lands.

All inquiries regarding this matter should be referred to:

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