

YOUR OPINION COUNTS!

EnviroNics Research asked CRD residents what kind of sewage treatment you want.

Here's what you said:

- **It should be public.**
You want the CRD to control and operate sewage treatment. Three-quarters (76%) want the regional district to operate a sewage treatment facility, compared to just 16 per cent who think a private corporation should operate it.
- **It should be the CRD.**
Your main reasons for trusting the CRD to operate sewage treatment are that it is not for profit (39%), public interests are better served (22%), and there is more accountability (19%).
- **It should be green and efficient.**
Over six in ten (62%) think it should be a high priority for the regional district to bring in programs that reuse wastewater.
- **It should be your decision.**
You think it is unfair for the Campbell government to only help pay for the sewage treatment facility if the region considers having it run by a private corporation. Seven in ten (71%) say this is unfair.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

The CRD must deliver a final plan for sewage treatment to the B.C. Environment Minister by June 30, 2007. So the timelines are very tight to influence the recommended plan.

Here are some things you can do:

- **Get informed.**
Find out more at:
www.keepwaterpublic.ca
- **Talk to politicians.**
Get in touch with your mayor and council and with your Member of the Legislative Assembly. Let them know you want a fair chance to have your say and you want CRD sewage treatment to be clean, green, affordable and public.
- **Talk to friends and neighbours.**
Encourage them to get informed and have their say in making sure we get CRD controlled and operated sewage treatment.

**Let's make the right
decision for CRD
sewage treatment ...**

CLEAN • GREEN

AFFORDABLE • PUBLIC

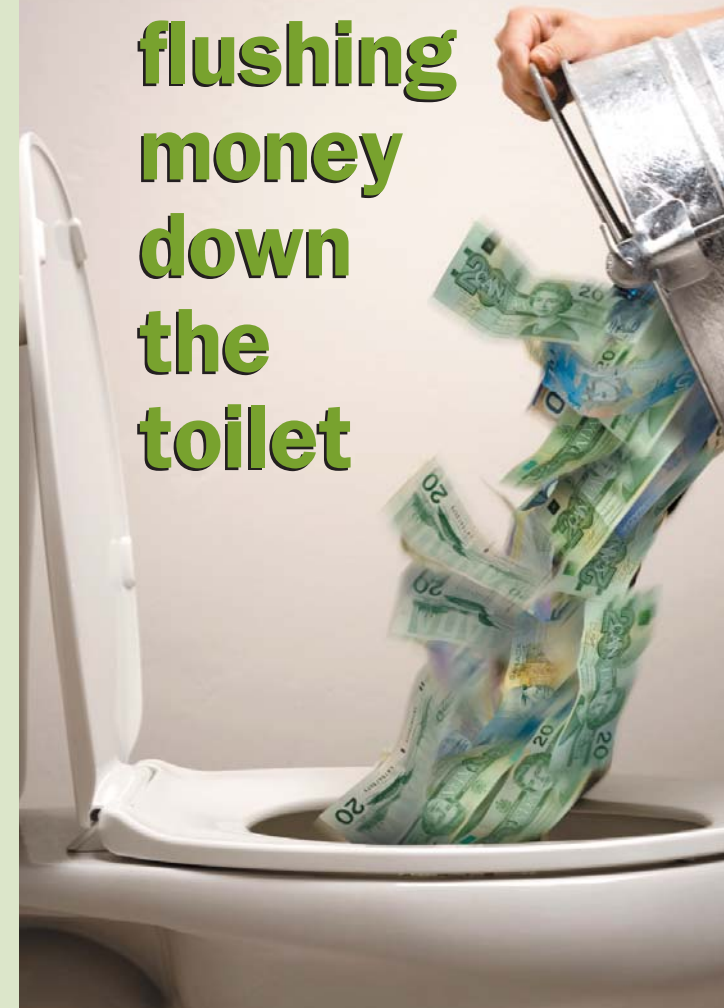
A MESSAGE FROM THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE HERE
AND PROVIDE SERVICES IN OUR COMMUNITIES –
THE CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES.

www.keepwaterpublic.ca



PRIVATIZING SEWAGE TREATMENT

is like
flushing
money
down
the
toilet



www.keepwaterpublic.ca

Sewage treatment: a big decision for the CRD

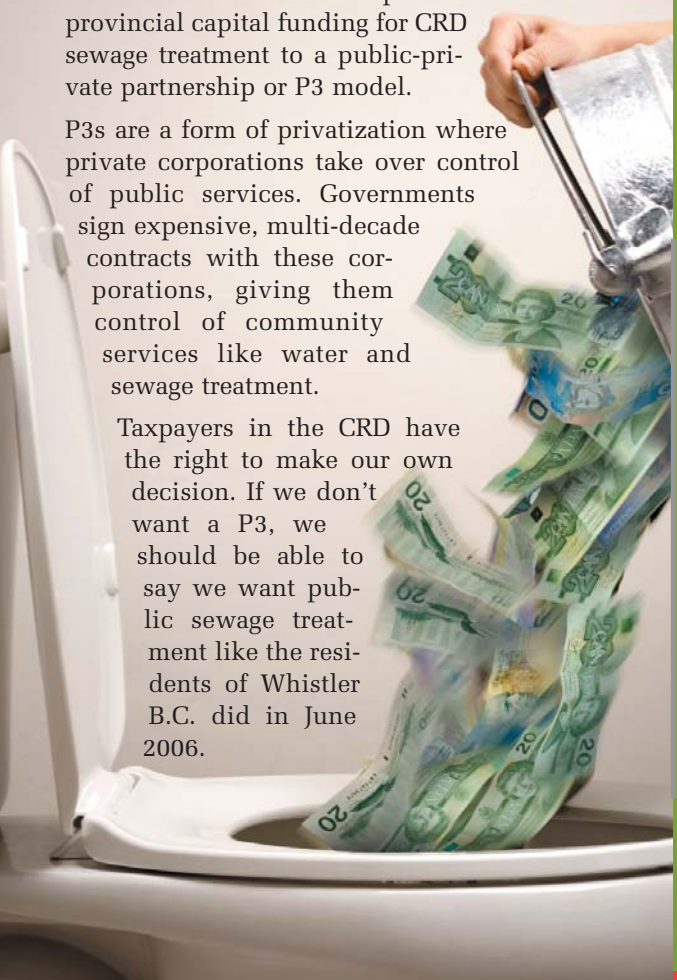
Capital Regional District residents have an important decision to make about how new sewage treatment will be developed and operated.

The provincial government has directed the CRD to bring in proper sewage treatment, imposing a very tight – June 30 – deadline for decision-making.

Now Premier Gordon Campbell has linked provincial capital funding for CRD sewage treatment to a public-private partnership or P3 model.

P3s are a form of privatization where private corporations take over control of public services. Governments sign expensive, multi-decade contracts with these corporations, giving them control of community services like water and sewage treatment.

Taxpayers in the CRD have the right to make our own decision. If we don't want a P3, we should be able to say we want public sewage treatment like the residents of Whistler B.C. did in June 2006.



Privatizing costs more, delivers less

Private corporations take on public projects to make money, with an estimated profit margin of 10 to 15 per cent on P3 contracts. This increases project costs and often means higher fees charged to residents.

Sometimes, in the process of making a profit, corporations cut corners that can lead to public health and environmental risks.

Like Victoria, Halifax has a long history of dumping raw sewage into the ocean. But a privatized solution caused unnecessary delay and cost.

The city cancelled a \$465-million sewage contract with a private consortium. The reasons? Corporations refused to accept the responsibility and risk in the event that they failed to meet environmental

standards. Halifax is now developing public sewage treatment.

The citizens of Hamilton paid dearly for privatized sewage treatment when 180 million litres of raw sewage was dumped into the city's harbour and backed up into local homes and businesses. Taxpayers were stuck with the clean-up bill. Hamilton has now cancelled the P3, brought water and sewer services back in-house, lowered costs and improved service with a public system.

Governments aren't perfect. But they are ours to control democratically and they have one primary goal – to look after the public interest – our interest. If we don't like the job our local or provincial politicians are doing, we can vote them out.

Green, clean and public

One of the most exciting opportunities for the CRD is establishing an integrated resource recovery program to reuse and recycle wastewater.

Resource recovery programs, such as the one in place in Sweden, extract water, heat, biofuel and electricity from sewage.

A regional public resource recovery program that uses waste as a resource can recover more value from waste and costs

less overall. This would be a major benefit to CRD taxpayers

Other systems, such as the Swedish model, rely largely on a publicly delivered system that sees waste paying its own way.

Let's take this opportunity to minimize pollution to water, land, and air with an integrated public approach that respects our pocketbooks and our environment.