

## SAHTLAM PLAINTIFFS RELEASE MOTORSPORT CIRCUIT FROM NUISANCE LAWSUIT

February 25, 2019 - Duncan, BC

The Sahtlam Neighbourhood Association (SNA) is pleased to announce that the nuisance suit against the Vancouver Island Motorsport Circuit (VIMC) has come to an end. The plaintiffs have released VIMC in exchange for a waiving of costs, including those awarded in a recent application. Six Sahtlam residents filed the lawsuit in June 2017 claiming that noise from the nearby racetrack had robbed them of the use and enjoyment of their properties, lowered property values, and disturbed the peace and quiet of their rural residential neighbourhood.

The settlement agreement was triggered when VIMC approached the plaintiffs in December 2018 asking to settle the matter. Although no agreement could be reached regarding acceptable noise limits, the plaintiffs decided the time was right to move away from a legal solution and towards a collaborative approach at the local level. Thus, the plaintiffs offered to settle without terms, and VIMC agreed to waive their costs.

“So much has changed since we filed this suit”, says Isabel Rimmer, plaintiff and president of the SNA. “In June 2017 we were getting nowhere with VIMC or the Municipality of North Cowichan, and a lawsuit was the only way to bring attention to this important issue”, notes Rimmer, recalling that VIMC was approved without any community consultation or requirements for noise mitigation. “Since filing our suit, there have been sweeping changes at the municipality in terms of both personnel and the overall attitude towards community consultation, and the need for litigation seemed much reduced.” And while noise from VIMC continues to be a concern, the SNA acknowledges that the situation has improved somewhat since the track opened in April 2016.

“It’s a win for this community”, says Rimmer, “We have shown that a small group of area residents can stand against powerful corporate interests and an unresponsive local government and get them to take notice”. The SNA plans to continue monitoring noise from VIMC while working with Mayor and Council on collaborative solutions to ongoing concerns. Meanwhile, the neighbourhood association can move forward with other advocacy work. “Today’s decision allows us to direct our resources and fundraising efforts towards other important projects and causes in our community”, says Rimmer, “but we will remain vigilant in protecting our neighbourhood from intrusive noise”.

For more information, visit [sahtlamneighbourhoodassociation.com](http://sahtlamneighbourhoodassociation.com).