

Saving Sandon - Three Core Issues

1. Our Electricity Contract Is Ending - Since 2002, much of our electricity has been purchased through Powerex at unsustainable rates averaging around 2.7¢ per kWh.

In 2017, we secured a 10-year contract with BC Hydro for a portion of our power at a fair rate for only 23% of our potential. That contract ends this year. BC Hydro has not been renewing contracts with small independent producers across BC. If ours is not renewed, we may be forced into insolvency. We are not asking for special treatment. We are asking for fair wholesale rates, contract renewal, and stability to continue serving our communities. Without it, this 129-year-old hydro station will face closure.

2. Crown Land Tenure Uncertainty - In 1996, Silversmith was promised the opportunity to purchase the land. That commitment was never fulfilled. Today, new proposed Crown land lease terms are financially unsustainable and operationally destabilizing. No utility can survive without secure land tenure. We are asking for stable, realistic terms, honour of prior commitments, and long-term security for continued operation. Without secure land tenure, Silversmith's future is uncertain and so is the community of Sandon

3. 50 Years of Preservation at Risk - The owners of Silversmith have been preserving Sandon for over half a century. They began preserving what others were abandoning. Hal, the manager, started the first museum, purchased buildings to prevent demolition, and purchased land to protect history. For over 50 years, the goal has been preservation — not modern development. The historic Silversmith Generating Station is the heartbeat of Sandon. If the hydro station shuts down, tourism suffers, historic preservation suffers, the museum suffers, and Sandon's future suffers. Sandon survives today because someone chose to protect it. We are simply asking for fairness so it can stand and operate for another century.