
FW: bylaw changes

From Alison Nicholson <alison.nicholson@cvrld.bc.ca>
Date Thu 3/26/2026 8:41 PM
To legislativeservices <legislativeservices@cvrld.bc.ca>

Alison Nicholson
CVRD Director,
Cowichan Station/Sahtlam/Glenora
250 510 3544

From: Mateo W [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2026 11:34 AM
To: Alison Nicholson <alison.nicholson@cvrld.bc.ca>
Subject: bylaw changes

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)
Dear Alison Nicholson,

I am writing to express my serious concern regarding the proposed zoning changes, which would have a devastating and immediate financial impact on our farm business and livelihood — and would effectively force the closure of our beekeeping operation, putting us out of work.

Our property holds farm status, and we currently raise and sell bees, honey, duck and chicken eggs, as well as fertilized eggs. The proposed reductions to allowable hive numbers and chicken populations — along with the no-rooster provision — would directly undermine these operations and eliminate our primary source of income.

The proposed four-hive limit would effectively end our beekeeping business entirely. We currently operate significantly more hives, and this operation represents a substantial portion of our livelihood. Beekeeping is inherently difficult, particularly through the winter months, and maintaining a larger number of hives is essential to ensure sufficient colonies survive seasonal losses. A four-hive cap is not only impractical — it is unviable as a business model and would force us to shut down an operation we have invested thousands of dollars building. The closure of our beekeeping business would leave us without our primary source of employment and income.

We recently invested in heritage-breed chickens specifically to support a fertilized egg business. Prohibiting roosters would effectively eliminate this income stream entirely and reduce community access to quality heritage breeds. Limiting us to six hens would make egg production completely unviable, ending our ability to provide farm-fresh, free-range eggs to our local community.

Confining our chickens would also fundamentally change how we manage our land. Our birds currently free-range across our 2.5-acre property, contributing to natural fertilization and

supporting a healthy ecosystem that directly benefits our bee population and overall farm health.

Our property is surrounded by wilderness, and applying uniform regulations across all zones fails to reflect the realities of rural land use. These restrictions may have merit in urban or suburban settings, but they are entirely unsuited to properties like ours that operate as genuine working farms in rural areas.

As an existing lawful operation holding farm status, we believe we have non-conforming use rights under the Local Government Act and respectfully request this be considered in your deliberations. We have invested thousands of dollars into our farm and apiary. These proposed changes would not merely inconvenience us — they would dismantle our business, eliminate our employment, and cause serious and measurable financial harm.

We respectfully ask whether any consideration has been given to the financial impact on small-scale farmers operating under farm status, and whether compensation would be offered for losses incurred as a direct result of these bylaw changes. We request a written response to this question before the hearing date.

We urge you to consider more flexible, context-sensitive policies — specifically distinguishing between rural and residential zones, implementing a grandfather clause for existing farm-status properties, and exempting current lawful agricultural operations from these restrictions.

Small farms are vital to Vancouver Island's local food system, environmental health, and community resilience. We ask that you stand with rural farmers and reject a one-size-fits-all approach that would put working families off the land.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Matt Williamson
Westwood Bees