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**Fw: Concern Regarding Proposed Front Yard Fence Height Bylaw**

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**From** Chairperson <Chairperson@cvrld.bc.ca>  
**Date** Thu 3/26/2026 8:48 AM  
**To** Danielle Myles Wilson <Danielle.MylesWilson@cvrld.bc.ca>

Kate Segall  
Chair of the Board & Director, Electoral Area A -Mill Bay/Malahat  
Cowichan Valley Regional District  
175 Ingram Street, DUNCAN BC V9L 1B6  
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With immense gratitude I live and work on the lands of the Malahat Nation. For thousands of years these lands were shared and cared for by their ancestors through intricate land management techniques rooted in a respect for the land and animals that live here. I seek healing through relationships and reciprocity.

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**From:** Sandra McAfee [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 26, 2026 6:17:29 AM  
**To:** Ben Maartman <ben.maartman@cvrld.bc.ca>; Kate Segall <kate.segall@cvrld.bc.ca>; Karen Deck <karen.deck@cvrld.bc.ca>; Sierra Acton <sierra.acton@cvrld.bc.ca>; Ian Morrison <ian.morrison@cvrld.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Concern Regarding Proposed Front Yard Fence Height Bylaw

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]

Dear CVRD Directors,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the proposed bylaw limiting front yard fence heights to 1.2 meters (approximately 4 feet).

While I understand the intent behind maintaining sightlines, neighbourhood aesthetics, and safety, this proposal does not reflect the realities of living in a largely rural region like the Cowichan Valley.

From a practical standpoint, a 4-foot fence is not effective at deterring large wildlife, particularly elk and deer, which are common throughout the CVRD.

For context:

- Adult elk are capable of clearing fences 6 to 8 feet high with ease.
- Deer can jump up to 8 feet and will routinely clear anything under that height if motivated by food sources.
- Wildlife fencing standards used in agriculture and rural residential areas typically recommend 7–8 foot fencing to provide any meaningful level of protection.
- Fences under 5 feet are generally considered ineffective barriers for large ungulates and may actually increase damage by encouraging animals to push through or jump into enclosed areas.

In rural and semi-rural communities, fencing is not just aesthetic—it is a necessary tool for protecting gardens, landscaping, small livestock, and property investments.

While I recognize that lower fences in front yards may support:

- traffic sightlines,
- pedestrian safety,
- and neighbourhood visibility,

these priorities must be balanced with the very real and ongoing presence of wildlife in this region.

A blanket regulation applied across all residentially zoned properties does not account for the diversity of land use within the CVRD. Many properties are not suburban in nature, despite their zoning, and are directly impacted by wildlife on a daily basis.

I strongly urge the CVRD to consider:

- Allowing exemptions or variances for properties in high-wildlife areas
- Implementing flexible guidelines based on lot size, location, and rural context

- Consulting with residents who actively manage wildlife interactions on their properties

Without these considerations, this bylaw risks being ineffective at best and burdensome at worst for rural residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I encourage the Board to ensure that any policy adopted reflects both planning principles and the lived realities of the community.

Sincerely,

Sandra McAfee

Youbou, BC