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## Proposed Bylaw on Fence Heights

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**From** Scott Hendrick [REDACTED]  
**Date** Thu 3/26/2026 7:54 AM  
**To** Hilary Abbott <Hilary.Abbott@cvrld.bc.ca>  
**Cc** legislativeservices <legislativeservices@cvrld.bc.ca>

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Dear Directors,

We are writing to express our concern regarding the proposed bylaw changes to maximum fence heights, particularly the restriction of 1.2 metres (under 4 feet) within the front setback of residential properties.

This standard may be appropriate in urban environments, but it does not reflect the realities of living in the Cowichan Valley Regional District. Much of the CVRD is rural or semi-rural, where wildlife—especially elk and deer—are a constant and significant presence. Additionally, the proposed height is not sufficient to ensure that all dogs can be safely contained within residential properties.

A fence of 1.2 metres is simply not effective in these conditions. Deer can easily clear fences of that height without hesitation. Additionally, for dog owners with larger breeds, this fence height creates a serious safety risk, both to the animal and the general public, as many dogs can easily clear that height and escape their yard.

While we appreciate the intent of the proposed regulation, it warrants reconsideration to address the concerns noted above. Perhaps a variance can be included to allow for higher fences if the fence is see through, as we assume one of the drivers for height is not to allow for large wall-type fences that do not integrate well with the rural settings of our neighbourhood.

We respectfully ask that the CVRD reconsider this bylaw and adopt a more practical, flexible approach. Specifically, we are requesting that the maximum allowable fence height be increased to a minimum of 8' if the fence is see through, and potentially higher if the land owner can substantiate substantive risks of wildlife incursions.

Residents should not be placed in a position where they are required to comply with standards that are ineffective for their environment. A one-size-fits-all policy does not serve a diverse region like the CVRD.

We encourage you to align this bylaw with the lived realities of your constituents and the natural environment we coexist with.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Terri Riddell & Scott Hendrick

[REDACTED] Cowichan Bay

[REDACTED]