

Bylaw changes

From Matthew Higgins [REDACTED]
Date Thu 3/26/2026 12:59 AM
To legislativeservices <legislativeservices@cvr.d.bc.ca>

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Dear Directors,

I am writing to express my 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.

A fence of 1.2 metres is simply not effective in these conditions. Elk can easily clear fences of that height without hesitation. The result is not just inconvenience, but real and ongoing impacts:

- Damage to gardens, landscaping, and food-growing efforts
- Increased costs for homeowners attempting to protect their property
- Safety concerns for pets and residents

The proposed regulation appears to be designed without sufficient consideration for the rural character of this region.

I respectfully ask that the CVRD reconsider this bylaw and adopt a more practical, flexible approach. Specifically, I am requesting that the maximum allowable fence height be increased to 12 feet, or at minimum that provisions be made for higher fencing where wildlife pressure is present.

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.

I 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,

Matthew Higgins
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