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**FW: \*\*\*\*Elk fence heights in Youbou**

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**From** Ben Maartman <ben.maartman@cvrld.bc.ca>  
**Date** Fri 3/27/2026 7:56 PM  
**To** legislativeservices <legislativeservices@cvrld.bc.ca>

For the record

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Julie Cove [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 26, 2026 11:45 AM  
**To:** Ben Maartman <ben.maartman@cvrld.bc.ca>; Kate Segall <kate.segall@cvrld.bc.ca>; Sierra Acton <sierra.acton@cvrld.bc.ca>; Hilary Abbott <hilary.abbott@cvrld.bc.ca>; Alison Nicholson <alison.nicholson@cvrld.bc.ca>; Ian Morrison <ian.morrison@cvrld.bc.ca>; Mike Wilson <mike.wilson@cvrld.bc.ca>; Karen Deck <karen.deck@cvrld.bc.ca>; Jesse McClinton <jesse.mcclinton@cvrld.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** \*\*\*\*Elk fence heights in Youbou

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED] Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Dear Directors,

We have a fully fenced yard that's well over half an acre with 6 foot high fences (so we can grow food and enjoy gardening) and we always keep the gates closed ... but two weeks ago we discovered an elk had jumped in at 11 PM (rubbing his antlers against our cottage) when all the gates were closed, ....we had to open the gate and carefully chase him out!!!

We now have put shiny tape higher than the fence level to hopefully deter them from returning! 🍌

If our forest weren't such mono crops, it would encourage the elk to stay amongst the forest and forage for the things they most need (that no longer survive or thrive amongst a monocrop)... so instead they are forced to search for other varieties of nutrient plants to sustain them.

This is what the council needs to understand ....we didn't cause the problem and yet we need to live amongst them and we need proper protection if we want to grow our own food, which is our right... and is necessary considering all the pesticides and genetically modified crops that exist in our world today...

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,

Name: Julie Cove

Address: [REDACTED] youbou Rd

Email: [REDACTED]

PS.

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