
Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw Changes for CVRD

From Leah Bowen [REDACTED]

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Dear Directors,

I am writing to express my serious concern regarding the proposed bylaw changes for the CVRD. While these changes may be reasonable for smaller properties under one acre, they are entirely unsuitable and disproportionate for larger rural properties such as ours.

We own 9 acres in Lake Cowichan, and many of the proposed bylaws are impractical and would significantly disrupt our rural way of life. If implemented, these bylaws will negatively impact not only our property but many others throughout the Cowichan Valley.

I would like to highlight several key concerns:

1. Fence Height Restrictions

We live in an area with a high population of elk. Reducing fence heights would make it impossible to protect gardens and crops, effectively eliminating our ability to grow food.

2. Restrictions on Chickens and Coop Sizes

Limiting properties of our size to only six chickens is unreasonable. We currently have eight chickens and had planned to expand. On 9 acres, such restrictions are excessive and unnecessary.

3. Permitting Requirements for Building

The proposed permitting process appears overly restrictive and burdensome,

creating unnecessary barriers for property owners.

4. Dock Limitations

We rezoned our property specifically to allow for a second waterfront residence and currently have two docks. Restricting our property to a single dock would undermine prior approvals and decisions we made in good faith.

5. Restrictions of Sea Can Containers

Restricting the use of sea can containers for storage on a 9-acre rural property is impractical and unjustified.

These are just a few of many concerns. I respectfully urge the Board to reconsider these proposed bylaws or, at minimum, create exemptions for larger acreage properties. Applying the same restrictions across vastly different property sizes is neither fair nor appropriate.

I strongly encourage the Directors and staff to pause and reevaluate these changes before proceeding further. The current proposal risks significant negative impacts on rural residents and the character of our community.

Sincerely,

Leah Rabey

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Lake Cowichan, BC

Resident of Area I