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**Fw: Fences and chickens and such?**

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**From** legislativeservices <legislativeservices@cvrld.bc.ca>

**Date** Tue 3/31/2026 2:12 PM

**To** legislativeservices <legislativeservices@cvrld.bc.ca>

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**From:** Lindsay Carroll [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, March 27, 2026 11:03 PM

**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:** Re: Fences and chickens and such?

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

I am writing to express serious concern about the current trajectory of the Cowichan Valley Regional District, particularly the proposed 300-page changes to district policies and the district's approach to accessibility.

Let me be clear: people are being left behind, and your correspondence with me about ASL access only confirms it. While the Corporate Services office stated that there is "no statutory requirement" to provide ASL interpretation at public meetings, this is a narrow legal dodge, not a justification for exclusion. The language used was cute — bureaucratic, careful, polite — but the impact on real people is anything but cute.

Accessibility is not optional. It is not something that can be ignored while you overhaul hundreds of pages of district policy. The sweeping changes you are pushing without proper inclusion mechanisms risk causing harm to the very citizens you are supposed to serve:

- Deaf and Hard of Hearing community members cannot meaningfully participate in meetings where their voices matter.
- Vulnerable residents risk being excluded from public consultation processes.
- The perception of fairness and legitimacy of council decisions is undermined.

Your 300-page overhaul may look impressive on paper, but scale without inclusion is just harm by volume. Writing new rules while ignoring who can actually engage with them is not governance — it is negligence.

I demand that the council:

1. Halt or pause implementation of the proposed policy overhaul until accessibility for all community members — including ASL users — is guaranteed.
2. Provide a clear, actionable plan for inclusion that goes beyond statutory minimums and ensures that participation is genuinely accessible.
3. Publicly acknowledge the gaps and risks that the current changes create, and commit to mitigation before moving forward.

This is not a request for courtesy. This is a demand for responsible governance. The people of Cowichan Valley cannot be treated as an afterthought in policy decisions that affect their daily lives, their access to services, and their ability to participate in democracy.

I urge the council to act responsibly. Failure to do so will not only harm residents, it will also undermine public trust in this institution for years to come.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Carroll

On Mar 25, 2026, at 8:24 PM, Lindsay Carroll  wrote:

Let me introduce myself as someone who is Deaf and requires Sign Language Interpreter. ASL. So let me know if you are able to accommodate - otherwise you are in violation of The British Columbia Accessible Act - and may I remind you that Accessible Canada Act exists too. Which I'm sure you are in violation of too. If you are not able to accommodate - then I consider this meeting null and void till next notice.

Lindsay Carroll

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