
FW: Opposition to bill 4710

From Ben Maartman <ben.maartman@cprd.bc.ca>
Date Sun 3/29/2026 7:46 PM
To legislativeservices <legislativeservices@cprd.bc.ca>

From: Chantal Aberle [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2026 9:39 PM
To: Karen Deck <karen.deck@cprd.bc.ca>; Kate Segall <kate.segall@cprd.bc.ca>; Jesse McClinton <jesse.mcclinton@cprd.bc.ca>; Ben Maartman <ben.maartman@cprd.bc.ca>; Alison Nicholson <alison.nicholson@cprd.bc.ca>; Sierra Acton <sierra.acton@cprd.bc.ca>; Ian Morrison <ian.morrison@cprd.bc.ca>; Hilary Abbott <hilary.abbott@cprd.bc.ca>; Mike Wilson <mike.wilson@cprd.bc.ca>
Subject: Opposition to bill 4710

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Dear elected officials:

Here is a list of what I see as the most obvious grievances from Bill 4710 and Bill 4373 regarding proposed rezoning bylaws and Official Community Plan in the Cowichan Valley Regional District:

1. Such a broad and sweeping bill that affects so many people must be able to be voted on by the majority of citizens it affects, not be snuck through quietly when no one is looking. This bill requires public feedback since it affects so many people. Period. Full stop.
2. Things we and our neighbours have been doing without incident for years and probably generations in some cases could suddenly put home owners in violation of new laws over night if this bill gets passed. These laws did not exist when homeowners entered into the legal binding contract with the purchase of their land. If terms of the contract need to be modified, then a new document with full consultation to parties affected needs to be drafted. It's illegal to simply decide to change the terms of a binding contract without prior consent.
3. This bill negatively affects the homes and livelihoods of many people in the Cowichan Valley, many who are already struggling to survive. One example is the Airbnb/vacation rental blanket ban throughout the CRVD with rare exceptions. Many home owners especially seniors on fixed incomes rent out portions of their property to help pay their mortgage. Taking this option away could destitute some community members and cause them to lose their homes. This helps no one.
4. This bill provides sweeping statements for many ecosystems and residential neighborhoods which are extremely diverse and cannot be painted with the same brush (Honeymoon Bay as the same as Ladysmith and Crofton, etc.). There are many diverse communities within the regional district and they have different jurisdictions and bylaws for a reason, because they have different needs.
5. This is Canada. We are supposed to enjoy freedoms here in this country and then be punished in due course if we are delinquent in our duties as citizens. We should not have our rights dictated to us over property that we bought and paid for legally in a free country. Many of these laws violate federal rights and freedoms that should be protected under our charter (right to life, liberty and pursuit of happiness as well as freedom from unlawful search and seizure, etc).

6. Also, a punishment should reflect the delinquency of the "crime" committed. Blanket \$50,000.00 fines for trivial things like having a fence that's too high or a discrepancy in square footage allotted to chickens, or an occupied rv on your property is absolutely ridiculous. These fines are vastly more delinquent than the so called crimes they are punishing.

7. This is supposed to simplify the framework of zoning . How is a 300 plus page document with several exceptional clauses simplifying anything for anyone?

8. This point I believe is most important. The world is very hard for people right now in many ways (fear of war and invasion, food insecurity, water insecurity, financial insecurity, crime, etc). Families are struggling. People in general are struggling. It seems ludicrous of the Cowichan Valley Regional District to prosecute so called violations with blanket "blank cheque" authority given to officials for enforcement, before alternative supports are distributed to the community. Primary examples of this would be: harsh fines and strict laws that make small scale farming for families to help relieve food insecurity next to impossible for the average working family to meet. Another prime example is prosecuting the literal hundreds of rural and urban residents currently living in rv's due to the housing shortage without providing any alternative low income housing. The next step for these people is parking down by the mill in Chemainus, or on Canada Ave in Duncan. After that, the next stop is a tent in the swamp next to Beverly Street. How does that help anyone in the community? What is the end game with making rv's illegal/strict enforcement in the midst of a housing crisis? This bill puts the cart before the horse. It punishes people for finding their own creative solutions for a systemic problem. The Cowichan Valley regional district and the province of BC have a responsibility to provide for its citizens. They are both falling short of this responsibility: in health care, transit, housing, poverty reduction, addiction counseling and treatment. Putting these burdens on the shoulders of average every day citizens in the community is heinous and shirking their responsibility to the community that municipal officials are supposed to work for.

I don't feel I should have to follow laws that are clearly working against the best interests of the people in the community and punishes them when they are forced to other alternatives when the system falls short. This area on the margins is where seeds for revolution are sown in an already tumultuous time; something the current administration should take note of before this movement reaches critical mass and violent insurrection. Humans will only allow for so much violation of their civil liberties before they push back. Logic and basic human decency dictate a revision of this bill is needed.

I thank you for reading my message and implore you to make better decisions in the interests of the community you serve.

Sincerely,
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