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**Subject:** Concerns Regarding CVRD Bylaw 4710 and Its Impacts on Rural Residents  
**Date:** Sunday, March 29, 2026 3:00:14 PM

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**Subject: Urgent Opposition to CVRD Bylaw 4710 – Harm to Rural Residents and Housing Reality**

I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed CVRD Bylaw 4710. As written, this bylaw does not just miss the mark—it actively harms the people who live and work in the Cowichan Valley.

This is not a minor policy adjustment. It is a sweeping set of restrictions that ignores rural reality, undermines self-sufficiency, and makes an already severe housing crisis worse.

### **Fence Restrictions That Ignore Reality**

The proposed 1.2 metre (under 4 feet) fence height limit is completely disconnected from the environment we live in.

Elk and deer are not occasional visitors here—they are constant. A fence of that height does nothing. Residents are left exposed to:

- Ongoing destruction of gardens and food sources
- Repeated financial loss
- Safety concerns for pets and families

This rule does not “regulate”—it prevents residents from protecting their property.

### **An Attack on Rural Food Security**

The bylaw places unnecessary and confusing restrictions on basic farming practices:

- Limiting how people raise poultry reduces self-sufficiency
- Restricting what can be grown and how it is used interferes with normal agricultural cycles

- Creating barriers to sharing or selling food locally undermines community resilience

At a time when people are trying to become more food-secure, these rules push them in the opposite direction—toward dependence and higher costs.

## **RV Living Is Not Optional—It Is Necessary**

The most troubling part of this bylaw is its failure to recognize a basic truth:

People in the Cowichan Valley are already struggling to find housing.

RV living is not a lifestyle choice for many—it is a necessity.

People live in RVs because:

- There is not enough affordable housing
- Rental availability is extremely limited
- Building a home takes time, permits, and significant cost
- Multi-generational families need flexible, temporary solutions

Yet instead of acknowledging this reality, the bylaw moves to restrict or penalize RV living.

This is not just out of touch—it is harmful.

Restricting RV use:

- Removes one of the last accessible housing options
- Forces people out of their communities
- Increases pressure on an already overwhelmed housing system

You cannot claim to care about housing while simultaneously eliminating one of the only solutions people are actually using

## **Property Rights Undermined**

This bylaw places excessive control over how people use their own land:

- Costly financial requirements for building or temporary living arrangements

- Arbitrary limits on structures and land use
- One-size-fits-all rules that ignore property size and purpose

People who have invested in rural land are being told they cannot reasonably live on or use it.

## **Disproportionate Enforcement and Penalties**

The enforcement measures are extreme.

Fines of up to \$50,000 per day are not reasonable—they are punitive to the point of being destructive. For ordinary residents, even minor issues could become financially devastating in a matter of days.

## **Misplaced Priorities**

At a time when the region is facing a clear and urgent housing crisis, it is deeply frustrating to see resources spent creating new restrictions instead of real solutions.

These changes target residents who are:

- Living within their means
- Trying to be self-sufficient
- Contributing to their communities

Instead of helping, this bylaw makes their situation worse.

This bylaw does not reflect the realities of the Cowichan Valley. It reflects an urban mindset imposed on a rural region without understanding the consequences.

Residents should not be penalized for:

Protecting their property

Growing their own food  
Finding practical ways to house themselves and their families

RV living must be recognized as a legitimate and necessary form of housing in this region—not restricted out of existence.

I urge the CVRD to stop and reconsider this bylaw in its current form. Without significant changes, it will do real harm to the very people it is supposed to serve and will increase the homeless issue you pretend to care about in this society.