

From: [Ben Maartman](#)
To: [legislativeservices](#)
Subject: FW: Strong Objection to CVRD Bylaw 4710
Date: Sunday, March 29, 2026 9:31:48 PM

From: Fran Onwayn [REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, March 29, 2026 3:13 PM

To: legislativeservices <legislativeservices@cverd.bc.ca>; Ben Maartman <ben.maartman@cverd.bc.ca>; Kate Segall <kate.segall@cverd.bc.ca>; Sierra Acton <sierra.acton@cverd.bc.ca>; Hilary Abbott <hilary.abbott@cverd.bc.ca>; Alison Nicholson <alison.nicholson@cverd.bc.ca>; Ian Morrison <ian.morrison@cverd.bc.ca>; Mike Wilson <mike.wilson@cverd.bc.ca>; Karen Deck <karen.deck@cverd.bc.ca>; Jesse McClinton <jesse.mcclinton@cverd.bc.ca>

Subject: Strong Objection to CVRD Bylaw 4710

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

I am writing to express serious and growing frustration regarding the proposed changes under [CVRD Bylaw 4710](#), particularly as they relate to rural life, agricultural practices, and the current housing reality in the [Cowichan Valley Regional District](#).

While these types of regulations may appear reasonable on paper—or in urban environments—they do not reflect the lived reality of those of us in rural and semi-rural communities. This bylaw reads as though it was written without meaningful understanding of how people here actually live.

The proposed maximum fence height of 3.5 feet is not just impractical but it is ineffective.

Wildlife such as elk and deer are not occasional nuisances in this region; they are a constant and unavoidable presence. A fence of this height does nothing to deter them

Several provisions in this bylaw interfere directly with small-scale agriculture:

Restrictions affecting poultry practices limit the ability to maintain self-sustaining flocks, increasing dependence on commercial systems

The “human consumption” limitation creates confusion around normal and necessary practices like growing feed or supporting ecosystems

Barriers to sharing or selling farm goods discourage the kind of local cooperation that rural communities rely on

At a time when food security is widely discussed as a priority, these measures move decisively in the opposite direction.

This bylaw introduces measures that significantly restrict how individuals can use their own land.

It reduces flexibility, increases costs, and makes it harder for residents to live and work on their properties. For many, this is not theoretical—this is about whether they can continue to sustain themselves where they already live.

These are not minor details. They impact how people express identity and participate in community.

policies like this do not just “encourage compliance”—they create conditions where people could lose everything.

You are placing residents at real risk of financial ruin—and, ultimately, homelessness.

Perhaps most concerning is the complete disconnect from the current housing crisis.

Housing availability and affordability are already critical issues in the [Cowichan Valley](#). RV living has existed for years—if not decades—as a practical and necessary solution for people trying to remain housed.

People live in RVs because they have no other viable option.

Restricting or eliminating this form of housing without providing realistic alternatives will have immediate and severe consequences:

It will make people homeless.

There is no way to soften that reality. Removing one of the only accessible housing options during a housing crisis is not responsible governance—it is a direct contribution to the problem.

Enforcement provisions that allow entry onto private property without clear and strict limitations raise serious concerns.

This level of access diminishes residents’ sense of privacy, security, and autonomy in their own homes. It represents a level of overreach that is deeply troubling.

It is extremely difficult to understand why such sweeping and restrictive changes are being pursued at a time when far more urgent issues—especially housing—remain unresolved.

Rural properties in this region are not failing systems in need of correction. They are stable, productive, and actively contributing to the community.

This bylaw risks disrupting what is already working, while offering no meaningful solution to the problems that actually need attention.

This bylaw does not reflect the needs, realities, or values of the people it will impact.

And most critically, it ignores the fact that RV living is not a loophole—it is a lifeline.

I urge the CVRD to reconsider this bylaw in its current form. Without significant revision, it will cause real and lasting harm to the community.

Sent from [Outlook for iOS](#)