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**FW: Letter to the Ministry of Agriculture: New CVRD bylaw 4710 impact on ALR Land Equestrian Centre use**

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**From** Public Hearings <PublicHearings@cverd.bc.ca>

**Date** Mon 3/30/2026 8:16 AM

**To** Zoning <Zoning@cverd.bc.ca>; legislativeservices <legislativeservices@cverd.bc.ca>

Linda Powers  
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Land Use Services Department  
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**From:** Matthew McNeill <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** March 29, 2026 8:35 PM

**To:** AF.Minister@gov.bc.ca; legislativeservices <legislativeservices@cverd.bc.ca>; Zoning <zoning@cverd.bc.ca>; Mike Wilson <mike.wilson@cverd.bc.ca>; Public Hearings <publichearings@cverd.bc.ca>; PlanYourCowichan <planyourcowichan@cverd.bc.ca>; Development Services <ds@cverd.bc.ca>; ALCBurnaby@victoria1.gov.bc.ca; ALC.LUPRT@gov.bc.ca; AgriServiceBC@gov.bc.ca

**Subject:** Re: Letter to the Ministry of Agriculture: New CVRD bylaw 4710 impact on ALR Land Equestrian Centre use

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Please disregard my email below sent earlier this morning.

On further research there is a provision in the bylaw that states that if there is a discrepancy between the bylaw and ALR rules ALR rules apply. So all good I don't think there is an issue here in regards to equestrian centre use on parcels smaller than 4 ha as the ALR rules ok'ing it would override the bylaw limitations

Sorry to add one more email to your never ending email inboxes

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 29, 2026, at 8:32 AM, Matthew McNeill <[mvmcneill@gmail.com](mailto:mvmcneill@gmail.com)> wrote:

Dear Minister Popham

I am reaching out today about the proposed limits imposed by the new CVRD bylaw 4710 impact on ALR land that seem to further restrict the use of said lands.

My understanding is based on the ALR website in regards to land use bylaws : "In addition, Section 903 (5) of the *Local Government Act* requires that bylaws not restrict the use of land for a farm business, unless approved by the Minister of Agriculture"  
<https://www.alc.gov.bc.ca/role-of-the-alc/working-with-local-governments/>

Equestrian facilities are a permitted farm use under part 3 of the ALR use regulations.

The proposed CVRD Bylaw 4710 limits equestrian facility use (4.11.) to a minimum parcel size of 4 ha or greater, along with other limitations

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4.11. Equestrian Centres Where an equestrian centre is permitted in a zone under this Bylaw, the following conditions of use apply: 1. An equestrian centre is only permitted on parcels 4 ha or greater. 2. No more than 40 stalls shall be provided for the accommodation or keeping of horses. 3. The equestrian centre, including buildings and structures for the accommodation or keeping of horses and outdoor areas for horses, shall be set back a minimum of 45 m from any parcel line. 4. Parking required in conjunction with the equestrian centre use shall be provided on the premises. 5. No external display or advertisement of the business is permitted, excluding permitted signage under PART 16 | Signage Regulations. "

These imposed parcel minimum size seems in direct contrast to section 903 (5) of the Local Government Act that requires bylaws not to restrict the use of land for a farm business on ALR land.

There are many equestrian facilities that operate on ALR land on parcels less than 4 ha in the CVRD area.

I have cc'd on this email our local area director along with CVRD zoning and legislative services.

Sincerely a concerned local resident who would like to protect approved farm land use of ALR land and local businesses in the CVRD.

Please reach out to me if you have any questions or I can help in any way  
Thanks

Matthew McNeill

████████████████████ Fairfield Road Cobble Hill BC