

---

**FW: Response requested: zoning bylaw 4710 impacts to poultry keepers**

---

**From** Ben Maartman <ben.maartman@cverd.bc.ca>  
**Date** Mon 3/30/2026 9:52 AM  
**To** legislativeservices <legislativeservices@cverd.bc.ca>

---

**From:** Nikki Dee <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 30, 2026 8:14 AM  
**To:** Alison Nicholson <alison.nicholson@cverd.bc.ca>; Zoning <zoning@cverd.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Hilary Abbott <hilary.abbott@cverd.bc.ca>; Ben Maartman <ben.maartman@cverd.bc.ca>; Ian Morrison <ian.morrison@cverd.bc.ca>; Sierra Acton <sierra.acton@cverd.bc.ca>; Jesse McClinton <jesse.mcclinton@cverd.bc.ca>; Mike Wilson <mike.wilson@cverd.bc.ca>; Karen Deck <karen.deck@cverd.bc.ca>; Kate Segall <kate.segall@cverd.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Response requested: zoning bylaw 4710 impacts to poultry keepers

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)  
Dear Alison and Board Members,

I am an Area E resident and I am writing to formally oppose the restrictions on poultry keepers outlined in Zoning Bylaw No. 4710. I request your response to four questions I list below.

The CVRD's "What We Heard" engagement report states that 81 per cent of participants believe the keeping of chickens should be based on property size. Under "How many chickens?" the report states [emphasis mine]:

Average: **9**

Typical range: **3–25**

**Suggestions** for no roosters

Suggestions that 6–8 are typically sufficient for **family use**

The proposed bylaw doesn't address several key issues. Here are my questions:

1. What is the CVRD's definition of a hen? Is it from hatched chick, or point of lay? Hens don't start laying eggs until four to six months after they are hatched. Chickens also moult, a six-to-twelve-week process where their energy goes into feather replacement and not eggs. Owning six hens does not equal six eggs per day.
2. What about other poultry like ducks, quail, pigeons and turkeys? Many poultry keepers have mixed flocks and raise these birds for different purposes, including eggs, meat and natural pest control.
3. What about meat birds? The BC Chicken Marketing Board has long-established rules that British Columbians can raise up to 200 meat birds per year without requiring the

purchase of quota.

4. Will existing and established flocks and their setups be grandfathered as “legally existing non-conforming use”? What protections will be provided to landowners?

Noting the information I provided above in bullet one, “Family use only” means farm stand egg sales to the community will likely be extinguished. Many poultry keepers rely on surplus egg sales to help offset the costs of flock maintenance, and the proposed restriction on hens threatens this income stream. This runs counter to any goal of local food security and sustainability.

A blanket prohibition on roosters fails to recognize the legitimate role roosters play in responsible backyard poultry keeping. Roosters protect hens from predators, alert their flock to threats, and contribute to the overall stability and organization of the birds under their care.

Broad biodiversity is vital to supporting healthy local flocks. Banning roosters outright means landowners can only replenish their flocks by purchasing chicks from a limited number of breeders, both increasing costs and worse, increasing the risk of genetic erosion in the CVRD’s poultry community at large.

If the Board’s concern is noise, those concerns can be addressed by modifying an outright ban to instead limit the total number of roosters per flock and by lot size and type. Such measures would protect community interests without imposing a deeply problematic blanket prohibition on all roosters.

As written, the proposed bylaw is a major intrusion into the lives of CVRD property owners and taxpayers. I urge the Board to reject the bylaw as proposed and initiate public hearings. Further consultation is required to ensure any new bylaws both respect the community and the individual needs of responsible landowners and poultry keepers.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Dykema