

# Municipality of North Cowichan

## Committee of the Whole

### ADDENDUM AGENDA

December 15, 2020

Pages

#### **1. PUBLIC INPUT**

The following public input was received by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, December 14, 2020. Submissions are listed below under the agenda item they are in relation to. If a submission has referenced multiple agenda items, it is included under each agenda subject and noted as a duplicate. The author's personal information is not relevant and has been redacted from the document prior to publishing.

- |             |  |           |
|-------------|--|-----------|
| <b>1.1.</b> | <b>33 Emails received in relation to item 4.1 Overview of the Five Year Operating Budget and Capital Expenditure Plan regarding the Forestry Review, Public Engagement and First Nation Consultation</b> | <b>1</b>  |
| <b>1.2.</b> | <b>1 Email received in relation to item 4.1 Overview of the Five Year Operating Budget and Capital Expenditure Plan regarding New Positions</b>  | <b>40</b> |

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)

Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 2:41 PM

To: Agenda <agenda@northcowichan.ca>

Subject: Forests

To the Mayor and Council

I am very concerned about the secrecy over the process on the future of our forests. These forests are our lungs, are carbon sinks and necessary for the well-being of the citizens and for the wildlife who inhabit them. Our world is warming rapidly and I am tired of hearing promises to do something about it while continuing business as usual. Remember, it is your children and grandchildren who will be seriously affected by a depleted future, not us old folks. We had the best of it because we thought the world would provide for us forever, well it won't! There are much better ways of using our forests than logging them for short term gain. I ask you to do your job, be open and transparent to the Voters who will decide if you deserve to be re-elected, and preserve for future generations their inheritance, an intact environment.

And the fact that you have stopped reading out our letters in council smacks of fear we might actually have something important to say.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)

**From:** [REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 3:53 PM  
**To:** Agenda <agenda@northcowichan.ca>  
**Subject:** UBC Forest Review

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

Please carry on with the Forest Review and the involvement of UBC. I want to see open and transparent consultation/communication about the status of our forests.

I have lived and played here for 45 years. I have contributed to our environment, in positive ways all along. I have conserved water, at the sink, in the shower, since my 20's. I have planted and grown native species of plants and trees on my properties.

I have zero trace camped and hiked and I have watched the significant changes to our beautiful and vulnerable 6 mountains. These are our watersheds. While some folks in this community seem bent on unsustainable expansion, I appeal to all who appreciate and value the importance of our watersheds, starting with the saplings, to the giants who still serve us.

Thank you for your commitment to public service,

[REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)  
Maple Bay, North Cowichan

**From:** [REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 6:43 PM  
**To:** Agenda <agenda@northcowichan.ca>  
**Subject:** Fw: Public Consultation: Window Dressing?

I am deeply disappointed in the Municipality of North Cowichan and insist Council address the deficiencies in the public consultation process described in the email below.

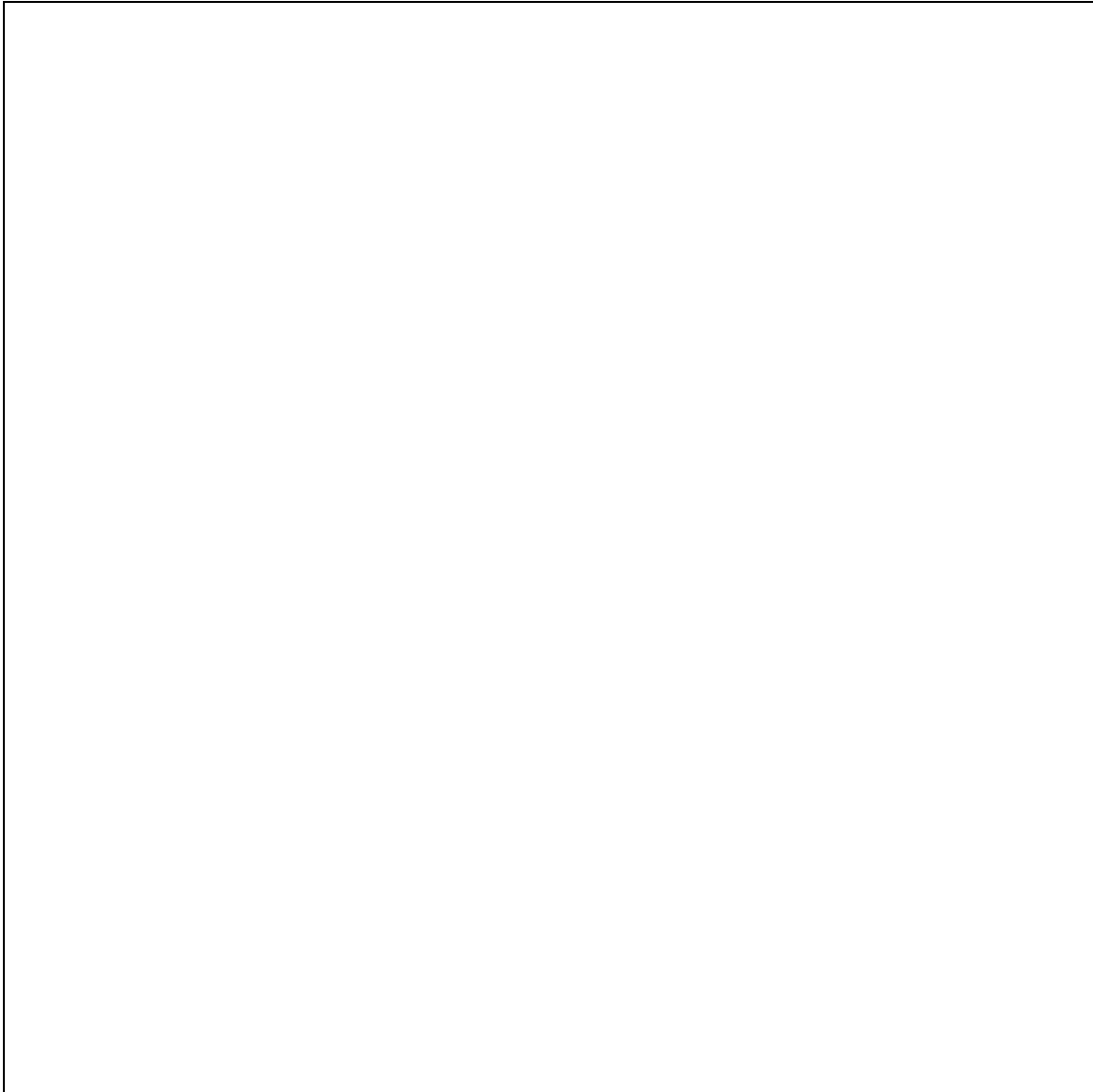
[REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)

Reply to [REDACTED]  
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----- Original Message -----

On Sunday, December 13th, 2020 at 13:57, WhereDoWeStand <editor@wheredowestand.ca> wrote:

## Public Consultation: Window Dressing?



Once more, it's time for citizens to rise to defend the forests. North Cowichan Council is holding a critical budget meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 15, including the forests. After almost two years since Council promised pause of logging for public consultation, we may be back where we started, but worse: interim logging may be on the table again; everything is secret; and now time and money are running out.

Council needs to hear from us. After you read this, I'm hoping you'll write to Council ([agenda@northcowichan.ca](mailto:agenda@northcowichan.ca)) to ask them why the promised "broad, deep, transparent, accountable" public consultation isn't happening.

Six months ago, the public began to protest that public consultation had become derailed and within days,

we were punted into the wings. That's how it felt. No explanation; we were simply told consultation with Tribes now came first—it would be behind closed doors and all else was on hold. So much for transparency.

When the Mayor made the announcement he quoted a member of tribes saying they didn't want to be used as window dressing. Well, ditto. It's how hundreds of citizens feel—that public consultation has been a facade.

First Nations consultation has no deadline. Why is this? Time and money is running out. Even the promise of carbon-credit cash in lieu of logging is now on hold.

Citizens have been contacting Where Do We Stand, frustrated, asking questions:

Why, after all this time, when First Nations consultation and public consultation were supposed to be happening at the same time (that's what the original engagement plan said), is public consultation suddenly on hold? Why can't both happen at once?

Why the secrecy? Why can't the Municipal Government and First Nations governments talk to us, the people, about what we are going to do together to preserve the Six Mountains ecosystems?

Isn't this what it's all about? Coming together in the open? Aren't we all, ultimately, in the same boat? If so, hundreds of citizens, asking for consultation, have felt about as engaged with, and invited, as pirates trying to board the Big Ship (as the Municipality calls itself).

The citizens of the Valley have made our priorities for protecting the forests clear through letters, protests, a 1,500-person petition, flooding council meetings, and filling the Cowichan Performing Arts Centre for a public forest meeting. That's how we got here.

In the recent Official Community Plan survey, citizens showed overwhelming support for "natural green spaces and surroundings, specifically the mountains, rivers, forests and ocean."

Moreover, during the pandemic we have demonstrated our love for the forests by being in them, showing up in droves.

And yet, despite all the evidence of public priorities, in the last Council meeting it felt like the public is no longer in the game or even in the bleachers—they no longer read our emails out loud at the beginnings of the meetings.

People are asking: How did we get here? Who is to blame?

We used to think it was the Big Ship. Once it has momentum, trying to shift it is almost impossible for our Councillor tugboats. The system has been full-steam ahead, logging behind locked gates without open transparent communication with the public for decades—it's another reason we are where we are.

On the other hand, within the system are people who want to do the right thing. For instance, at last week's Council meeting, Chief Administrative Officer Ted Swabey said it would be "disingenuous" for Council to proceed with logging while consulting the public on whether they want logging.

I used to disagree with Ted a lot. However, increasingly, he says things that make me feel he cares that the community is on board. I feel the same about Council and Tribes, and all people—that most of us share the most important values: we love and want to protect the forests. So why have things run amuck?

It's simple. A community is like a family. With secrecy there's no trust, no open communication, no enlightened decisions.

Council needs to hear from you. Do you want to start public engagement now? Do you want logging to continue before public engagement is done? Do you want transparency from our government? Do you want UBC to finish the forest review and show us all the options? If so, you have till Monday, 5 pm, to write to [agenda@northcowichan.ca](mailto:agenda@northcowichan.ca)

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**Our mailing address is:**

Where Do We Stand  
PO Box 241  
Duncan, Bc V9L 1P0  
Canada

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■



-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)  
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 2:22 PM  
To: Agenda <agenda@northcowichan.ca>  
Subject: Forestry Consultation

Mayor and Council,

In my opinion, there has been enough time allotted to consult with First Nations for their opinions and concerns regarding the six mountain forests that are supposed to be under review.

In the last couple years the importance of the municipal forests have been brought to the attention of council by many groups and individuals of the community, who are concerned about how the forests have been managed. Mayor and Council promised to conduct a transparent and inclusive consultation of the community for input.

I believe there has been enough evidence in favor of having UBC complete a plan of management for our forests. It is time for someone on council to bring forward a motion of action to get underway with this important planning that the UBC experts brought forward.

Please give UBC instruction to carry out the planning for the sake of our important environment. Climate change waits for no one.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)  
[REDACTED]  
Duncan

Sent from [REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)

**From:** [REDACTED]

FIPPA s. 22(1)

**Sent:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 3:03 PM

**To:** Agenda <agenda@northcowichan.ca>

**Subject:** Budget Meeting, Dec 15, Forests

North Cowichan Council,

It is my understanding that while you are asking for First Nations and public consultation on community forests that there may be logging that is proceeding. If this is true, it is the height of irresponsibility particularly when the public is in such a compromised and preoccupied position with health and Covid concerns. I would like to register my complaint and request a public explanation. There needs to be total transparency with regards to such a contentious issue regarding the community forests. Please respond.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)

**From:** [REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)

**Sent:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 5:01 PM

**To:** Agenda <agenda@northcowichan.ca>

**Subject:** Six mountains and logging lots of questions and not much transparency from you all.

Hello

Some questions that should be answered. The citizens of the Valley have made our priorities for protecting the forests clear through letters, protests, a 1,500-person petition, flooding council meetings, and filling the Cowichan Performing Arts Centre for a public forest meeting. Why, after all this time, when First Nations consultation and public consultation were supposed to be happening at the same time (that's what the original engagement plan said), is public consultation suddenly on hold? Why can't both happen at once?

Why the secrecy? Why can't the Municipal Government and First Nations governments talk to us, the people, about what we are going to do together to preserve the Six Mountains ecosystems? Isn't this what it's all about? Coming together in the open? Aren't we all, ultimately, in the same boat? If so, hundreds of citizens, asking for consultation, have felt about as engaged with, and invited, as pirates trying to board the Big Ship (as the Municipality calls itself).

In the recent Official Community Plan survey, citizens showed overwhelming support for "natural green spaces and surroundings, specifically the mountains, rivers, forests and ocean." Moreover, during the pandemic we have demonstrated our love for the forests by being in them, showing up in droves and yet, despite all the evidence of public priorities, in the last Council meeting it felt like the public is no longer in the game or even in the bleachers—they no longer read our emails out loud at the beginnings of the meetings.

Seems to me that the people want to start public engagement now. Seems to me that the public does not want logging to continue before public engagement is done. Seems to me the people want transparency from this government. Seems to me the people want UBC to finish the forest review and show all the options.

Sincerely concerned for the future of this island and this planet.

[REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)

**From:** [REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 5:58 PM  
**To:** Agenda <agenda@northcowichan.ca>  
**Subject:** Six Mountains forestry

Hello,

I'm new to North Cowichan. But I was already concerned about logging on the Six Mountains before I arrived. Given the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's urgent warning, two years ago, that we need to make drastic changes to prevent worst-case climate catastrophes, it makes no sense to keep logging areas of them.

It seems a majority of people in this growing municipality live here because they love nature. It would make far more sense to either conserve the forests for carbon credits, or manage it in a similar way to Wildwood Ecoforest, where some trees are removed, but in a way that leaves the ecosystem intact.

I am eagerly awaiting the public engagement on this issue. I also support the idea of First Nations stewardship, with the expectation that they would manage the forests for the benefit of many generations, not just this one. I am wondering when UBC will complete the forest review, and would appreciate a reply giving that information.

Sincerely,  
[REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)

**From:** [REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 6:13 PM  
**To:** Agenda <agenda@northcowichan.ca>  
**Subject:** Public Consultation on Logging

Dear Council,

I'm writing to express my support for public consultation about logging and share my concern that the process of consultation/discussion about logging the six mountains has been unclear at best. Please do not log our forests behind the community's back. Please listen to the voices of the people. If it's just about money -- (a pitifully small amount that the municipality makes from logging contracts) -- please look at the obvious options for recouping profits through recreational use and environmental protection.

I'm a young member of this community, and I'm deeply disappointed that we continue to log forests that are so obviously more valuable standing. I'm saddened that, of all the fabulous scientific and policy research and solutions out there, this small logging town has not embraced progress. Logging these forests are not profitable enough to justify (pennies for our trees) and are not going to strengthen our communities long term. I fail to see how leaving our forests bare, exacerbating climate change, and lining the pockets of a few who remain in an unsustainable industry benefits the economic and social development of this Island, province, and nation. I want to trust that my council members - who have years of knowledge and experience - will take this long-term view for our environment, too. The current approaches to environmental "management" are antiquated and short-sighted.

Bluntly -- logging our forests is tragically unprofitable. The revenue is such a tiny amount of money to sell off an environment that takes decades -- at least -- to grow. On the other hand, our recreational areas are bursting with use; the municipality is hiring paid parking attendants on Tzouhalem to handle demand for these resources. As the Municipality's 2019 report says, "North Cowichan is one of very few Municipalities in North America that owns forest land, making our plentiful trails and recreational opportunities highly unique." Let's embrace that. THESE uses are valuable; in tax dollars, in collaboration with businesses in the valley and Victoria; in sponsorships with international mountain biking champions, in carbon sequestration. These are world-class recreational resources that the municipality wants to chip away at (permanently) just to give a few logging contracts.

To me, the long-term implications of our current crossroads are obvious. These forests are worth more standing. We can become leaders and stewards of change and progress -- together. Let's do something different. Let's become models for resilient communities. There are countless local, national, and international initiatives trying to support industries and communities in moving forward to preserve our environments and support our economies. They are not mutually exclusive, but the players in our municipality continue to view them as being so.

Please let me know if and how there are any ways I can become involved and help - I'd love to

start by researching grants and connections/organizations that would support us in moving forward.

Thanks for your time,



FIPPA s. 22(1)

**From:** [REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 7:16 PM  
**To:** Agenda <agenda@northcowichan.ca>  
**Subject:** No logging in North Cowichan Municipal forest reserve without UBC forest review.

To whom it may concern,

As a citizen of the Cowichan Valley I would like to request you start public engagement now regarding logging operations in N. Cowichan Municipal forest reserve.  
I do not want logging to continue before public engagement is done.  
I request transparency from our local government.  
I request you allow UBC to finish the forest review and show us all the options before continuing with any logging operations in N. Cowichan Municipal forest reserve.

Thank you,

[REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)  
Carpenter  
Cowichan Valley

**From:** [REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 6:36 PM  
**To:** Agenda <agenda@northcowichan.ca>  
**Subject:** Logging

Hello,

As a resident of North Cowichan I like to ask you to pause logging out forests as promised nearly 2 years ago, and to increase the transparency of the whole process about what's going on with out municipali forests.  
Best regards

[REDACTED], Duncan  
FIPPA s. 22(1)



**From:** [REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 2:05 PM  
**To:** Agenda <agenda@northcowichan.ca>  
**Subject:** Public Consultation for Forests of North Cowichan

Dear North Cowichan Council Members,

I am disappointed that although the bylaws clearly outline that the public has the right to review and decide on forestry practices, it appears that much discussion and decision making continues to be private and behind closed doors, or when public is welcome to attend, there are limited options for the public to have input on the process.

You promised “broad, deep, transparent, accountable” public consultation and I do not see that happening.

We the public have a right to review the forestry practices and we expect our elected officials to follow through with this, not just lip service but actual real public consultation.

There should be no private meetings on the subject. Considering COVID restrictions they should all be public and available online. There should be multiple avenues for public consult that include modes different ages groups are comfortable using: in person, email, on your website. The results of this consultation should also be public.

Thank you,

[REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)

**From:** [REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 4:45 PM  
**To:** Agenda <agenda@northcowichan.ca>  
**Subject:** Consultation on Six Mountains

To whom it may concern,

I have heard very concerning rumours that interim logging might be approved to take place at the area now known to environmentally-minded citizens as Six Mountains, before the public consultation process is duly carried and completed, although it hasn't really been initiated due to pandemic restrictions. Apparently, the proposal of carbon-credit cash in lieu of logging is also on hold at present, despite it being a feasible solution according to the researchers at UBC that have researched it.

I am a concerned citizen and a voter who lives in North Cowichan. I have a lot of respect for council members and the work they do, and I am quite concerned and disturbed by these rumours. North Cowichan Council and the Mayor's office should issue a public statement clarifying the situation as soon as possible, as well as put in place a moratorium regarding any logging activities until due process is followed and completed.

Kindest regards,

[REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)

**From:** [REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 2:36 PM  
**To:** Agenda <agenda@northcowichan.ca>  
**Subject:** Six Mountains

Dear counsellors,

This community was promised “broad, deep, transparent, and accountable” public consultation on this matter but it is not happening. Private consultation with the tribes is NOT public and is NOT transparent. It should be abundantly clear to you all by now that protecting our forests and watersheds is a paramount concern and priority for so many of us. For me, it is the most important issue, pretty much the only issue that I care about in this valley now that so much of it has been destroyed by rampant development and logging. It needs to stop - please. But at least have the transparent and accountable public consultation we were promised.

Thank you,

[REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)

Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 4:06 PM

To: Agenda <agenda@northcowichan.ca>

Subject: Dec 15 Agenda re Forest Management

Dear Members of Council,

It seems to me that Public Engagement in regards to Forest Management has been either non-existent or rather minimal in nature.

The only accounting that I have seen is the results of the OCP survey which showed a great percentage of the public supports preservation of natural green spaces and surroundings, specifically the mountains, rivers, forests and ocean.

However, that is not the extent of Public Engagement that was promised almost 2 years ago.

I encourage Council to pause the logging, with no interim logging, until the UBC report is reviewed and made public. At that time let's make the decisions with Public Consultation.

[REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)

**From:** [REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 8:59 PM  
**To:** Agenda <agenda@northcowichan.ca>  
**Subject:** Public Consultation

Dear Council,

Please start public engagement now. I don't want logging to continue before public engagement is done. I would like to see transparency from our government and would like UBC to finish the forest review and show us all the options.

Sincerely

[REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)  
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 3:38 PM  
To: Agenda <agenda@northcowichan.ca>  
Subject: No more Logging of North Cowichan public forests

Dear Council members ,

As a home owner in North Cowichan I would like to register my support for an immediate and continuing halt to all logging of North Cowichan's public land .

I offer just this simple statement:

It is time that we humans recognize that trees that are alive are intrinsically more valuable to us than trees that are dead.

Stop the endless discussion just stop the logging.

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)  
[REDACTED]  
Duncan BC

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)  
**Sent:** Monday, December 14, 2020 9:40 AM  
**To:** Agenda <agenda@northcowichan.ca>  
**Subject:** Forestry Public Consultation

North Cowichan Council,

The promised `broad, deep, transparent, accountable public consultation on logging` in our communities has not happened. When will this start? Citizens want transparency in government.

Why can't Public & First Nations consultation on logging happen at the same time as the original engagement plan indicated?

In the recent Official Community Plan survey, citizens showed overwhelming support for "natural green spaces and surroundings, specifically the mountains, rivers, forests and ocean." We deserve to have our say on logging in our communities.

I want the UBC Forest Review to be completed so we know all the options before logging continues. Logging should not be permitted until the public engagement process is completed.

Yours truly,

[REDACTED] V0R 1K1  
FIPPA s. 22(1)

**From:** [REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)

**Sent:** Monday, December 14, 2020 12:19 AM

**To:** Agenda <agenda@northcowichan.ca>

**Subject:** Forest review, etc.

WE DO WANT TRANSPARENCY FROM OUR MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT  
AND DO WANT THE UBC TO FINISH THE  
FOREST REVIEW AND SHOW US ALL THE OPTIONS.

WE WANT NO LOGGING BEFORE THIS IS DONE AND ALL THE OPTIONS  
ARE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED.

Sincerely,

FIPPA s. 22(1)

[REDACTED]

Duncan BC V9L 2A8



**From:** [REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)  
**Sent:** Monday, December 14, 2020 1:50 PM  
**To:** Agenda <agenda@northcowichan.ca>  
**Subject:** Our Public Forests

Dear North Cowichan Council:

After almost two years since Council promised pause of logging for public consultation, we may be back where we started, but worse: interim logging may be on the table again. Why isn't the promised "broad, deep, transparent, accountable" public consultation happening?

Six months ago, the public began to protest that public consultation had become derailed and within days, we were punted into the wings. That's how it felt. No explanation; we were simply told consultation with Tribes now came first—it would be behind closed doors and all else was on hold.

When the Mayor made the announcement he quoted a member of tribes saying they didn't want to be used as window dressing. Well, ditto. It's how hundreds of citizens feel—that public consultation has been a facade.

First Nations consultation has no deadline. Why is this? Time and money is running out. Even the promise of carbon-credit cash in lieu of logging is now on hold.

Why, after all this time, when First Nations consultation and public consultation were supposed to be happening at the same time (that's what the original engagement plan said), is public consultation suddenly on hold? Why can't both happen at once?

Why the secrecy? Why can't the Municipal Government and First Nations governments talk to us, the people, about what we are going to do together to preserve the Six Mountains ecosystems?

Isn't this what it's all about? Coming together in the open? Aren't we all, ultimately, in the same boat? If so, hundreds of citizens, asking for consultation, have felt about as engaged with, and invited, as pirates trying to board the Big Ship (as the Municipality calls itself).

The citizens of the Valley have made our priorities for protecting the forests clear through letters, protests, a 1,500-person petition, flooding council meetings, and filling the Cowichan Performing Arts Centre for a public forest meeting. That's how we got here.

In the recent Official Community Plan survey, citizens showed overwhelming support for "natural green spaces and surroundings, specifically the mountains, rivers, forests and ocean."

Moreover, during the pandemic we have demonstrated our love for the forests by being in them, showing up in droves.

And yet, despite all the evidence of public priorities, in the last Council meeting it felt like the public is no longer in the game or even in the bleachers—they no longer read our emails out loud at the beginnings of the meetings.

People are asking: How did we get here? Who is to blame?

We used to think it was the Big Ship. Once it has momentum, trying to shift it is almost impossible for our Councillor tugboats. The system has been full-steam ahead, logging behind locked gates without open transparent communication with the public for decades—it's another reason we are where we are.

On the other hand, within the system are people who *want* to do the right thing. For instance, at last week's Council meeting, Chief Administrative Officer Ted Swabey said it would be "disingenuous" for Council to proceed with logging while consulting the public on whether they want logging. We feel the same about Council and Tribes, and all people—that most of us share the most important values: we love and want to protect the forests. So why have things run amuck?

It's simple. A community is like a family. With secrecy there's no trust, no open communication, no enlightened decisions.

We want to start public engagement now. We do not want logging to continue before public engagement is done. We want transparency from our government. We want UBC to finish the forest review and show us all the options.

Thank you.

FIPPA s. 22(1) [REDACTED], CPA, CA  
Shawnigan Lake, BC

**From:** [REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)  
**Sent:** Monday, December 14, 2020 1:19 PM  
**To:** Agenda <agenda@northcowichan.ca>  
**Subject:** In defense of the forest

Honoured representatives

I have strong feelings about maintaining the integrity of our remaining forests. Although the municipality is economically invested in continued logging, in the long term, in the big picture, the trees are more valuable standing. Encouraging a rapidly evolving diversity will support our continued relationship with this local biosphere.

I also believe that collaboration with the local Tribes communities is necessary for ongoing support of restitution, decolonization and true partnership going forward.

Our future will be tied to intelligent comprehensive management of resources. This may require a re-evaluation of past practices, the introduction of new understandings and the reining in of expectations.

The trees will always be worth more standing. And houses will continue to be built, but sending our timber to be turned into cardboard or pellets for energy production is in my judgement a very poor use of a sustainable resource.

Respectfully

[REDACTED]

FIPPA s. 22(1)

Duncan V9L 4N3

**From:** [REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)

**Sent:** Monday, December 14, 2020 12:18 PM

**To:** Agenda <agenda@northcowichan.ca>

**Subject:** Why has public consultation about logging on Municipal Mountains been put on hold?

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to you with my concerns and questions about the consultation process into logging on local mountains. Our mountains. Mountains on municipal lands that are owned by us?

Why does consultation with Tribes now come first? Why is it behind closed doors and public consultation put on hold when we were promised "broad, deep, transparent, accountable" public consultation? Are these these values no longer important to council? Why can't both happen at once and with transparency? Why the secrecy? Why can't the Municipal Government and First Nations governments talk to us, the people, about what we are going to do together to preserve the Six Mountains ecosystems? Clearly many of our local citizens see more intrinsic value in a standing tree than a tree that has been felled and sold to the highest bidder, and then shipped abroad, as do our local wildlife. Yet council is acting in the opposite direction to the one suggested in the UN IPBES Report, in which they report of the dangerous position in which we humans have placed ourselves due to the loss of ecosystems and biodiversity everywhere. A report based on scientific assessments. If you haven't read this report and are not using it to guide your decision-making process, I highly urge you to do so, for the sake of your citizens, and for the sake of your own future generations.

Why does the First Nations consultation have no deadline. Time and money are running out. Even the promise of carbon-credit cash in lieu of logging is now on hold.

The citizens of the Valley have made our priorities for protecting the forests clear through letters, protests, a 1,500-person petition, attending council meetings. In the recent Official Community Plan survey, citizens showed overwhelming support for "natural green spaces and surroundings, specifically the mountains, rivers, forests and ocean." During the pandemic, our green spaces have held even higher value, and people have enjoyed them even more deeply.

And yet, despite all the evidence of public priorities, in the last Council meeting, the public was being ignored in this process, and council is no longer reading letters aloud at meetings, letters sent to you by the citizenry you were elected to represent.

Please take the time to answer my questions. They are not rhetorical. I want to know how my opinion as a citizen in this municipality can be heard.

Regards,

[REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)

**From:** [REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)  
**Sent:** Monday, December 14, 2020 4:17 PM  
**To:** Agenda <agenda@northcowichan.ca>  
**Subject:** Public consultation

To: North Cowichan Mayor and Councillors:

As you may recall from previous letters, the Cowichan Valley Naturalists are sincerely interested in maintaining an avenue of communication about decisions made regarding the natural areas of this valley.

As time goes by it is becoming clearer to us that we need more wild areas to maintain biodiversity, sequester carbon and give us space to walk in nature.

Please ensure there will be public consultation before any decisions are made for more logging.

[REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)

Co-Presidents

Cowichan Valley Naturalists

**From:** [REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)  
**Sent:** Monday, December 14, 2020 10:27 AM  
**To:** Agenda <agenda@northcowichan.ca>  
**Subject:** Public engagement re forests

Dear Mayor and Council.

As you consider the Municipal budget at tomorrow's meeting, please take into consideration the commitment made to the community of a comprehensive public engagement process.

While I understand that this process has slowed inevitably because of covid and that a meaningful consultation with our First Nation's community was necessary, please do not let these things distract you from this promised and crucial engagement process.

Respectfully,  
[REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)

**From:** [REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)  
**Sent:** Monday, December 14, 2020 8:32 AM  
**To:** Agenda <agenda@northcowichan.ca>  
**Subject:** Where do we stand?

To Council members of North Cowichan.

I'm writing to you to ask for the transparent accountability regarding what we will do to protect 6 Mountains ecosystem, that was promised, and to state unequivocally that should logging continue while public consultation is in progress, is at the very least "disingenuous" as was stated by Chief Administrative Officer, Ted Swabey. To protect our forests requires rigorous consultation and accountability between Council, Tribes and all of our community.

Let's trust each other, to communicate with transparency, truth and compassion. I would like to see all of the options as will be outlined in the UBC Forest review so that we can make enlightened and educated choices. We want to work together to make the decisions that will protect the wooded sanctuary's of our community.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)

Cowichan Valley resident and a frequent visitor to the forests of 6 Mountains.

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)  
**Sent:** Monday, December 14, 2020 11:10 AM  
**To:** Agenda <agenda@northcowichan.ca>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)  
**Subject:** Public Consultation on Logging

Dear Mr. Mayor and North Cowichan Council;

There are always two (or more) sides to a story but.....

Because I have heard or read little from council regarding the state of affairs in regard to the moratorium on logging in North Cowichan municipal forests, I have a question first then a request.

**Question;** Is there a website you could direct me to so I may hear North Cowichan's achievements regarding the state of public input regarding logging in our forests? I truly wish to know Council 'side' of things before I start joining protest groups.

**Request;** If the above can't be answered or your achievements in the area are not fulsome and transparent, I would appreciate council noting as of this moment in time:

**There should be no logging in N. Cowichan municipal forests until full public consultation has been completed and analyzed as promised.**

**In addition, UBC should be allow to complete their forest review with public dialogue on all the options they may suggest.**

Thanks,

[REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)  
[REDACTED]  
Duncan, BC



**From:** [REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)  
**Sent:** Monday, December 14, 2020 2:46 PM  
**To:** Agenda <agenda@northcowichan.ca>  
**Subject:** Forests on the agenda

Apparently Council has a budget committee meeting on Dec 15 2020 and our forests are on the agenda.

Two years ago we were promised a "broad, deep, transparent, accountable" public consultation". Why is this not happening?

You must engage the public in matters associated with our forests and be totally transparent with all aspects concerning the same . It is your responsibility to the citizens that elected you and you represent.

We are calling for you to have the UBC finish the forest review and show us all the options before decisions are made.

**Our families are depending on you to do the right thing for us all.**

[REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)  
Chemainus

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)  
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 10:49 AM  
To: Council <council@northcowichan.ca>; Agenda <agenda@northcowichan.ca>  
Cc: Al Siebring <mayor@northcowichan.ca>; Rob Douglas <rob.douglas@northcowichan.ca>;  
Christopher Justice <christopher.justice@northcowichan.ca>; Tek Manhas  
<tek.manhas@northcowichan.ca>; Kate Marsh <kate.marsh@northcowichan.ca>; Rosalie Sawrie  
<rosalie.sawrie@northcowichan.ca>; Debra Toporowski <debra.toporowski@northcowichan.ca>  
Subject: Budget Considerations  
Importance: High

Attention: North Cowichan Municipal Council  
Re: Budgetary Decision Impacts on the Municipal Forest Reserve

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I wish to express concern over the lack of a decision on the future of our Municipal Forest Reserve and its financial implications for taxpayers.

I was one of the honoured few to be invited to sit as a member of the 'Municipal Forest Reserve Working Group,' a voluntary committee tasked with advising the municipality on public outreach and engagement with respect to the operation and role of the our forestlands.

At our inaugural meeting on March 11th we were reminded that our good-faith commitment to the process was to be executed with interpersonal respect for all contributors, that we should expect as our group title suggested, that we were there to roll up our sleeves and "work," and that in parallel with our progress, Council would be contemporaneously consulting on a government-to-government basis with Tribes.

In July, while we were deliberating over a discussion guide, an online survey, and a public forum format, our business was suddenly suspended by Council until further notice.

I ask Council to please consider the costs of not making a decision on the future of our Municipal Forest Reserve lands.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)  
[REDACTED]  
North Cowichan, BC

[REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)

**From:** [REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)  
**Sent:** Monday, December 14, 2020 11:10 AM  
**To:** Agenda <agenda@northcowichan.ca>  
**Subject:** Pause logging on the six mountains

Hello there.

I feel that during this time of uncertainty the one that thing that should be certain is the health of our home, a lot of us see our home as the surrounding forest and natural beauty of our shared backyard. We feel that our homes and our shared backyard is nothing but a resource to exploit for logging companies who reap huge rewards with no accountability. We all need to feel safe and sure of our future and every time our favourite parts of these 6 mountains gets destroyed to benefit a few already deep pockets, it really depresses a lot of folks that are like-minded to my world view.

We (citizens of the valley) need to be an open community and talk about risk vs reward here and it seems to me that we all take the risk as we watch our favourites places get destroyed and the reward goes to the super-rich logging fat cats and who they pay off.

Start public engagement now.. please. Do what's right. Let UBC finish the forest review and show us all the options. Let us have a future we are proud of.

Thank you if you even read this message.

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)  
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 11:46 AM  
To: Agenda <agenda@northcowichan.ca>  
Subject: Dec 15 Agenda Item - PROMISED Consultation?  
Importance: High

Dear Mayor & All Elected Board Members,

Please add this to the List of public concerns and ensure each Board Member receives it. Better yet, I will email it to them as well - to be 100% sure.

My main question in tomorrow's meeting is simple and short. I plan to attend to hear your response - first hand.

Where is the promised public consultation for the Six Mountains - that was to be: broad, deep, transparent and accountable?

It seems it has been lost behind much more than Corona issues ..and that is not okay with your voting taxpayers and most importantly - caring citizens that have worked so hard.

Thank you,

[REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)

Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 4:14 PM

To: Agenda <agenda@northcowichan.ca>

Subject: local forests

I am writing to add my voice to the many people living in this valley who want to see an end to logging on the local mountains. You, the elected counsel, know all the reasons why it makes more sense to keep the trees where they are and yet you do nothing. It is clear that the mayor has an agenda and has no intention of doing anything other than what his cronies want him to do, but that should just be a stimulus to the rest of the counsel to band together to make sure that the will of the people is respected, instead of being systematically shunted to one side. Please, for the sake of all of us and the natural world around us, stand up for our local environment while there's still one to stand up for.

[REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)

Duncan BC

Tricia Mayea

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**From:** [REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)  
**Sent:** Monday, December 14, 2020 4:42 PM  
**To:** Agenda

What happened to 'public consultation' regarding the forests and logging???? What happened to transparency?????

[REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)  
Mill Bay, BC  
V0R 2P3

Tricia Mayea

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**From:** [REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)  
**Sent:** Monday, December 14, 2020 4:54 PM  
**To:** Agenda  
**Subject:** Tuesday December 15th Budget Meeting!!

After almost two years since Council promised pause of logging for public consultation, we're still waiting for the promised “broad, deep, transparent, accountable” pubic consultation! Why isn’t that happening, yet a critical budget meeting that includes forestry is happening tomorrow? Is interim logging back on the table again? Where is the public consultation process?

No Municipal Council has the authority to 'work in a vacuum'! Even as the World continues to be in "lockdown", that does NOT give North Cowichan Council the authority to make decisions void of public input and consultation!

The promised pubic engagement needs to start now! Logging MUST NOT continue before/until public engagement is done! As a member of the public, I demand transparency from all levels of local government! UBC MUST properly finish the forest review and show us all the options!

In earnest,

[REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)

Tricia Mayea

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**From:** [REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)  
**Sent:** Monday, December 14, 2020 5:01 PM  
**To:** Agenda  
**Subject:** Council meeting Dec 15, 2020

Dear Mayor and Council,

Re Forests and Public Communication:

Can you please explain why public consultation and consultation with Tribes cannot occur at the same time? And also, why can UBC not continue to do its work?

A 1,500 citizen’s petition asked for public consultation with diverse forest experts—not just from the industrial sector. Why has this not been in the plan and why after two years has there been no public education about the forest ecosystems—how they survive, how logging affects them?

Why no public forest meetings in the year before Covid-19, for open debate and discussion between diverse experts?

The draft surveys and draft discussion guides, being prepared before public consultation was shut down, were biased toward status quo logging. I wrote an article about this and it was sent to you all. (Stacked Deck). The Citizen wrote a story about it and asked the Mayor for comment. Larry Pynn’s FOI disclosed that in a closed-door meeting, Stacked Deck was taken apart, line by line, by the consultants, with staff, and discussed at length—but it was not discussed with the public. Why were the questions asked not addressed in public?

What happened to the promised open, transparent, accountable, broad, deep public consultation? Why all the secrecy?

Stacked Deck addressed the secrecy of the working group. The majority voted for transparency with the public—the consultants went against the majority vote.

Thank you for your time,  
[REDACTED] FIPPA s. 22(1)



Tricia Mayea

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From:

Sent:

To:

Cc:

Subject:

Monday, December 14, 2020 5:02 PM

Agenda

Al Siebring; Rob Douglas; Christopher Justice; Tek Manhas; Kate Marsh; Rosalie Sawrie; Debra Toporowski; Ted Swabey

C.O.W. Meeting Dec 15 4.1 New Positions

FIPPA s. 22(1)

Mayor and Council

Too Many  
New Positions  
How many New positions does the CAO expect to Hire since coming  
In Oct 2017 !!  
Eliminating the previous Corporate Officer of 20 years has Not Saved  
the Municipality \$ 150,000. As CAO Ted Swabey was quoted in the Citizen Newspaper

Budget and Finance Manager to replace Mark Frame as New Finance and Protective Services Manager

Senior Environmental Specialist – Dr David Preikshot F/T 2018 Plus  
Environmental Tech !!

Procurement Manager  
Assistant Fire Chief – Inspections  
Planning Manager  
Engineering Tech – Environmental

At what Cost to the Taxpayers ???! On and On it Goes !!!!!  
2% Raise for All ?!

FIPPA s. 22(1)