

Ginny Gemmell

From: [REDACTED] FIPPA s 22(1)
Sent: Thursday, December 29, 2022 12:47 PM
To: Council
Subject: Request for amendment to North Cowichan's Consent Agenda Policy

Mayor and Councillors:

I write to respectfully ask that at your earliest convenience you amend North Cowichan's Consent Agenda Policy, which currently states: "All personal information shall be redacted from correspondence received from members of the public prior to inclusion in the Consent Agenda in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act."

My concern arises from the Dec. 21, 2022, council meeting at which council debated an agenda item — correspondence from a citizen requesting that the public consultation into the Municipal Forest Reserve be extended from Dec. 31 to Jan. 31.

The letter writer's name was redacted. Council supported the request.

North Cowichan's policy of redacting the author's name from correspondence on the agenda goes too far and is inconsistent with the policy of other municipalities — which do, in fact, make the name public, but redact other personal information such as email, address, etc.

I have included below email correspondence I received from eight municipalities whose policy is to include the name of the author when correspondence appears on the agenda. Note that not one municipality I contacted follows North Cowichan's unnecessarily restrictive policy.

Please place my letter on the council agenda at the soonest possibility.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED] FIPPA s 22(1)
Maple Bay

City of Victoria (Crystal Anderson): "Letter writers names are not redacted from correspondence to Mayor and Council or for correspondence that forms part of a council agenda record."

Capital Regional District (Tamara Pillipow) — "Any correspondence included in a published agenda will include the name of the person who penned the letter. All other personal information, such as addresses & phone numbers, is redacted."

City of Nanaimo (Donna Stennes) — "Yes, your name would be public."

Town of Sidney (Anna Morton) — “When letters or emails are sent to Mayor and Council and put on an agenda, the writer’s name is included but their other personal information is redacted, including contact information and signatures.”

City of Duncan (Paige MacWilliam) — “If it’s going on the Council agenda, then the person’s name would be public (but contact information would be redacted).”

City of Colwood (Marcy Wickens-Lalande): “If it is requested to be put under correspondence requiring direction on a Council agenda the name is included.”

Town of Ladysmith (Sue Bouma): “Usually if a person writes to Council regarding an issue that Council must discuss (as opposed to a bylaw complaint, or some operational issue that staff might be able to answer more quickly), the actual correspondence to Council is included in the agenda package, but things like addresses, email addresses and phone numbers would be redacted. The person’s name would not be redacted.”

District of Saanich (Vivian Cheung): “When a correspondence is written into Mayor and Council and it goes to the public agenda, your name will be viewable, but other information like your address, e-mail or other sensitive information will be redacted.”