



Mayor Rob Douglas
January 25, 2023

We are writing to encourage you, at the Feb 1st 2023 Council Meeting, to vote **against** the motion to provide a 2 year amnesty period for developers from the conditions outlined by the new Official Community Plan (OCP) which was approved only a few short months ago. The new OCP which was adopted, as many have already said before, after a long and extensive period of consultation, is a good document and should not be cast asunder for another two years. The new OCP provides much needed new protections for the environment and for living and working conditions for the residents of the Cowichan region. This document outlines areas where the rural aspects of the district should be preserved and also points to areas where residential, commercial and industrial expansion should be encouraged. To delay implementing these guidelines for another two years would, for all intents and purposes, make the entire exercise of formulating a new OCP almost meaningless. We don't think developers can honestly say that the adoption of a new OCP came as a complete surprise given that it had been in progress for at least four years. Everyone had an opportunity to provide input and the majority of the residents of the Cowichan Valley wanted to see more protections for the 'quality of life' aspects of the valley that make people want to come here to live in the first place.

If the new OCP is in need of some tweaking, then by all means, go ahead and discuss what kinds of tweaks are needed, but environmental safeguards such as the new requirement for additional riparian setbacks and retention of green space should definitely be off the table. Our lakes and rivers are too important to mess with and are already under threat of degradation as evidenced by the parrot feather encroachment in Somenos Creek and the algae blooms in Quamichan Lake. Such environmental protections would be lost if the new OCP were to be put on hold for another two years. That is not acceptable.

So – Mayor Douglas we are asking you please, for the sake of the current residents of North Cowichan and for those who are still to come, **please do not approve a two year amnesty from the guidelines of the new North Cowichan Official Community Plan.**

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED], North Cowichan

FIPPA s 22(1)