



Reference: 30119

May 8, 2023

VIA EMAIL: mayor@northcowichan.ca

Rob Douglas, Mayor
Municipality of North Cowichan
7030 Trans-Canada Highway
Duncan, BC V9L 6A1

Dear Mayor Douglas:

Thank you for your April 3, 2023, letter regarding some of the current challenges in the Cowichan Estuary and your request to amend the Cowichan Estuary Environmental Management Plan (CEEMP).

The Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS) is responsible for working with other natural resource sector ministries and in partnership with First Nations to support the effective development of policy and planning for water, land and marine environments as well as biodiversity and ecosystem health. Over the years the province has worked with numerous partners on the Cowichan Estuary Environmental Management Committee (CEEMC) to administer the plan for the well-being of the estuary and those who live and work within it. Thank you for highlighting some of the new and emerging challenges in the estuary and the need to continue working collaboratively for successful outcomes.

I understand that prior reviews of the CEEMP in 2005 and 2010 highlighted several positive outcomes of the plan as well as some areas for improvement. As a starting point I will look to regional staff to review those prior reports and work with the CEEMC to evaluate the effectiveness of the existing plan. In the interim, please continue to work with Jesse Patterson, Ecosystems Section Head, Land Use Policy, Planning and Ecosystems Division, as the Chair of the CEEMC on any short-term process improvements at jesse.patterson@gov.bc.ca.

Again, thank you for writing and sharing your concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nathan Cullen". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Nathan Cullen
Minister
Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

pc: Jesse Patterson, Ecosystems Section Head, Land Use Policy, Planning and Ecosystems Division