

Delegation by N Dower, I Rimmer and RQ George

Our delegation requests that the Municipality of North Cowichan urgently develops a robust Noise Bylaw, protecting its residents from intrusive noise that interferes with their peaceful enjoyment of their properties and with their daily lives within their homes.

For many months last year, hundreds of residents in Maple Bay and around Quamichan Lake were subjected to Rapid Impact Compaction in an onslaught of noise so disturbing that some moved, some considered moving and some even considered suicide. Unrelenting, window-rattling pounding shook the neighbourhood on the slope of Mt. Tzouhalem (Pi'paam) in Kingsview. We recently learnt that another area of similar size must be stabilized and that Vesta plans to begin this work in the Spring of 2024.

The community of Sahtlam, has been unable to enjoy their properties for years, as their peaceful rural neighbourhood is subjected to periodic blasts of powerful vehicles and motorcycles racing at high speeds in close vicinity for days at a time. This can be heard over 10 km away. The noise pollutes the slopes of Swuq'us, the site of the Quw'utsun creation history.

Our new Official Community Plan identifies concerns about noise pollution, acknowledging "that noise can be an environmental health issue and/or a nuisance" in Section 6.2. This is echoed by The Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety which considers intensity, frequency, predictability, complexity, and duration of noise as important qualities to be considered. Noise can lead to annoyance, with a resultant 'stress response" and deleterious health effects, sleep disturbance, hopelessness, and despair. The maximum loudness is NOT the only assessment that matters.

Economically, the OCP promotes sustainable business development. Since the advent of COVIC, new businesses (and some previously existing one, providing employment and was revenue, have sprung up, operating from home. Working and holding virtual meetings from homes in these areas has become impossible. The project of years of noise is very likely to prevent entrepreneurs from considering our communities as a place to operate their businesses.