



North Cowichan Mayor and Council
Via email

October 10, 2023

Dear Mayor and Council

Thank you again for the opportunity to present to the Committee of the Whole on September 26, 2023 where we outlined the Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society's vision of the Firehouse Creek Restoration Project, S'amunu Stormwater Detention Wetland, and the potential use of the municipal property at 6060 Canada Avenue as a Nature & Cultural Education Centre. As outlined in our presentation, these series of projects will reconnect and restore the west arm of Somenos wetlands, while at the same time, provide numerous benefits to the community.

The last PowerPoint slide in our presentation requested four actions that will help us advance this vision forward:

- Knowledge of, and input into, future Canada Ave municipal work that will take place from Phillips Street to the Sherman Road roundabout.
- Release of the municipal property disposition report for 6060 Canada Ave and discussions to begin about the future and best use of this property.
- Discussions to begin re the acquisition of the approx. 5-acre wetland that adjoins the west boundary of 6060 Canada Ave.
- Letter of support for our efforts to seek seed funding for the Firehouse Creek Restoration Project and S'amunu Stormwater Detention Wetland.

We are hoping that council will consider these questions and act on each request as soon as possible. We would be very happy to sit down and describe in detail the various aspects of the project to encourage further communication and collaboration re advancing these projects. We are hoping that this meeting would lead to municipal support to begin preparing a full funding proposal for North Cowichan and Cowichan Tribes review.

Thank you for considering these requests.

Paul Fletcher
Executive Director, Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society