

**From:** Sandra Blackey [REDACTED] **FIPPA s.22(1)**

**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 12:27 PM

**To:** Terri Brennan <[terri.brennan@northcowichan.ca](mailto:terri.brennan@northcowichan.ca)>

**Cc:** Sabrina Francis <[Sabrina.Francis@northcowichan.ca](mailto:Sabrina.Francis@northcowichan.ca)>

**Subject:** Submission To Council ~ Expanded Wording to include wild birds ~ Bylaw 3740 Animal Responsibility coupled with the Wild Life Act

As per below with thanks!

### **Issue**

Amend wording of Bylaw 3740 - Animal Responsibility coupled with the Wild Life Act RSBC 1996 c.488 to include the feeding of wild birds (pigeons in this case).

The existing bylaw prohibits intentionally feeding or leaving food out for feeding: racoons, squirrels, rabbits, bears, coyotes, cougars, wolves & other dangerous wildlife under the Wild Life Act RSBC 1996, c. 488.

### **Background**

Thanks to North Cowichan Bylaw Department; I have been made aware of the gap in bylaw coverage as it pertains to wild birds (not song birds)... specifically pigeons.

Without an amended bylaw and a monetary penalty to encourage voluntary compliance; there is seemingly little deterrance to feeding pigeons and little recourse for neighbouring residents who are impacted negatively when humans feed and keep pigeons in a densely-built residential subdivision.

In Spring and summer 2023 I endured the pigeons landing on my newly built home, pooping on my windows and encrusted poop on my gables, in addition to 0500 hrs wakeup...along with witnessing them on a different neighbours specially-built cedar privacy fence, enclosed therapy hot tub area, and special water fountain installed in their garden outside their family room window.

At that time the pigeon cage was positioned at the right side of 2032 Ernest Lane. This meant it was directly below the neighbour's main bedroom windows and outdoor sundeck.

This also meant the pigeon cage was positioned across the laneway (not street width) in from the front of my duplex home. (This is a lane not street-width in an effort to build density into the land use, and is the only side to my duplex home).

Suddenly neighbours had to compensate for a different kind of human "density" and were put in a position to place wild bird passive deterrants on their own property in order to continue to enjoy their home!

The keeper of the pigeons indicated they were pigeons that roosted at her condo deck in the lower mainland and so when moving to 2032 Ernest Lane to live with her grown daughter she brought them to North Cowichan on the ferry. Certainly there would have been strata rules and city bylaws against feeding birds.

Pigeons roost near their food source. While perhaps well-intended; humans feeding them upsets nature's delicate balance, and the delicate balance of humans living nearby the roost!

Now, in the rainy weather of Fall and Winter the pigeon cage and feeding dishes have been moved under the garage soffit of 2032 Ernest Lane directly across the lane in front of my home bedrooms, livingroom.

**Action Requested**

- (1) Council amend North Cowichan bylaws to prohibit the feeding of wild birds such as pigeons.
- (2) Bylaw Officers encourage compliance directly with this well-intentioned pigeon-keeper.

Seasonal moving the cage and feeding dishes around the grown daughter's residential property for the pigeons' comfort does not resolve the issue as there are other home owners in this newly built and "densely" built subdivision who are visited and disturbed by these pigeons.

Offering to pay for the damage inflicted by pigeons does not mitigate the quality of life nuisance they bring to neighbours.

**Conclusion**

The home owners in this subdivision have worked diligently to earn/purchase homes in the lovely piece of North Cowichan. While some would say its pride in ownership that motivates owners to maintain their property; I offer that it is out of consideration for neighbours so all can enjoy living here.

Thank you to Council for your kind consideration of this item and Bylaw Officers for their work.

North Cowichan is situated on the traditional territories of the Quw'utsun Nation, which includes the Cowichan Tribes, the Halalt First Nation, the Lyackson First Nation, the Penelakut Tribe, and the Stz'uminus First Nation. The Municipality also sits on the traditional territory of the Snuneymuxw First Nation.

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