

**From:** [COAP](#)  
**To:** [Connect](#); [Council](#)  
**Subject:** Request for Inclusivity in Community Survey Participation  
**Date:** Saturday, December 23, 2023 11:31:47 AM

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Dear North Cowichan Council and Connect North Cowichan team,

We are writing to you on behalf of (COAP), a group dedicated to fostering inclusive and active engagement in our community affairs.

We recognize and appreciate the importance of the community surveys conducted by our municipality. These surveys serve as a significant tool for gauging public opinion and often form the basis of important decisions made by the council.

However, we have identified a critical barrier that hinders broad community participation in these surveys. The requirement to register a profile on the municipal website, which includes agreeing to extensive terms of use and privacy agreements, has raised significant privacy concerns among our members. The complexity and the nature of these agreements, which comply with PIPEDA, CASL, and other policies, have led to a reluctance or inability for many to register. Consequently, this registration prerequisite has inadvertently excluded a substantial segment of our community from participating in these surveys.

This exclusion is a matter of concern as it limits the diversity of voices and opinions that are essential for a comprehensive understanding of the community's needs and perspectives.

In light of this, we respectfully request the council to consider the following:

Motion Proposal: To introduce a motion to direct the municipal staff to explore and implement alternative methods for survey participation that do not require online registration, or to consider the removal of the registration requirement altogether.

We aim to ensure that all community members have an equitable opportunity to contribute their voices to matters that affect us all. Addressing this issue will enhance the inclusiveness and accuracy of the survey results, ultimately leading to more representative and effective decision-making.

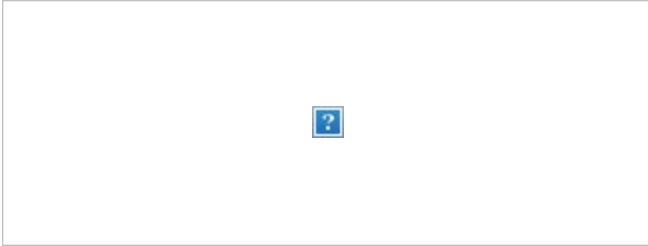
We look forward to your response and are eager to know if the council will consider introducing a motion to address this concern. Your attention to this matter is highly appreciated, and we are hopeful for a positive step towards more inclusive community engagement.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Joseph & Adrienne  
COAP  
Citizens Oversight & Accountability Project

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(778) 732-2238  
[contact@coap.ca](mailto:contact@coap.ca)  
191 Ingram St, Duncan BC  
PO BOX 1037  
V9L 1N8

[WWW.COAP.CA](http://WWW.COAP.CA)

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