



Reference: 43393

October 24, 2024

**VIA EMAIL:** [rob.douglas@northcowichan.ca](mailto:rob.douglas@northcowichan.ca)

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

Dear Mayor Douglas:

On behalf of Minister Cullen, thank you for taking the time to meet with us and staff from the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, at this year's Union of British Columbia Municipalities Convention in Vancouver on September 17, 2024, to discuss water use in the Chemainus Watershed and biodiversity.

When we met, we talked about the annual authorization required to use water from Chemainus Lake, due to well-water advisories. We understand that water access to Chemainus Lake is not agreed to on a permanent basis by Halalt First Nations. Ministry staff will follow up with Halalt First Nations to discuss options. We also discussed the flooding of the Chemainus River and your request for improved communication from the province on river management.

Lastly, we discussed biodiversity and your work with Cowichan Tribes to take inventory of ecological assets. I committed to connecting WLRS biodiversity staff with your staff on biodiversity planning.

Again, thank you for your time. I am grateful we had the opportunity to meet about topics of mutual importance to provincial and local government.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori Halls". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lori Halls  
Deputy Minister

pc: Honourable Nathan Cullen, Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship