

Council Member Motion

Notice given on: Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Meeting Date Wednesday, January 21, 2026
From Councillor Manhas
Subject Special Task Force

Purpose: For Councillor Manhas to move the motion that was introduced at the December 17, 2025 Council meeting.

Recommendation

Whereas the Corporation of the District of North Cowichan has recently been informed of the permanent closure of the Crofton Pulp & Paper Mill and;

Whereas the Chemainus Sawmill operation has not been operating for several months; and;

Whereas this will result in 500 direct jobs being lost either temporarily and/or permanently; and;

Whereas this will substantially reduce tax revenues paid to the District of North Cowichan; and;

Whereas this will have a compounding negative impact on other support industries specifically, and the entire local economy generally;

Now then,

the Council of North Cowichan, hereby appoints a Special Task Force to undertake an urgent investigation into the reasons for the closure of the Crofton pulp & paper mill and the curtailment of the Chemainus sawmill including;

- the availability of fibre supply
- the cost of fibre
- the timeline for timber permit approvals
- the transportation costs of moving fibre
- the market price of pulp and lumber
- the employee impact of lost jobs
- the short & long term effect on the Cowichan Valley economy

And the Council confers upon the Special Task Force the responsibility to meet with officials of both Domtar and Western Forest Products companies, employee groups and their unions, the Ministry of Forests, the Cowichan Valley Regional District, the Cowichan Chamber of Commerce, the Chemainus Chamber of Commerce, and whatever agencies that may provide pertinent information with respect to the curtailment of mill operations.

The Special Task Force shall provide a report to Council by the end of February 2026.

And Further Council will provide the necessary staff and resources to the Special Task Force.

Attachment: