

Council Member Motion

Notice given on: Wednesday, January 21, 2026

Meeting Date Wednesday, February 4, 2026
From Councillor Justice
Subject Fibreglass Pollution in the Cowichan Estuary

Purpose:

For Councillor Justice to move the motion that was introduced at the January 21, 2026 Regular Council meeting.

Recommendation

WHEREAS the Cowichan Estuary is of significant ecological, cultural, and economic importance to the community;

AND WHEREAS a 2025 study has identified a significant presence of fibreglass particles in the sediments and biofilm of the Cowichan River estuary, raising concerns about impacts on wildlife, ecosystem health, and the risk of entering the food chain;

AND WHEREAS the study recommends improved regulation, monitoring, enforcement, and better management of fibreglass waste, including end-of-life boats, and prioritizing further research on fiber glass entering the food chain and how this affects human health;

AND WHEREAS North Cowichan's Official Community Plan supports collaborative, long-term protection and restoration of the Cowichan Estuary, working with industry and advocacy groups to support sustainable economic activity and advocating for practices that protect sensitive habitats and intertidal resources.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct the Mayor to write to our MP and MLA and the appropriate regulatory authorities - including Environment and Climate Change Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, Transport Canada, and any other appropriate regulatory body - to both raise awareness of and request action to address fibreglass pollution in the Cowichan Estuary, including actions to:

- investigate sources of contamination and enforce regulations;
- strengthen monitoring and regulatory oversight;
- support remediation, monitoring and community-led restoration efforts, and;
- promote and support research on glass fibers entering the food chain