

March 10, 2021

File: 6480-30 2019.01  
Prospero No: SPP00040

Jill Thompson  
Cowichan Watershed Board  
4335 Riverside Road  
Duncan, BC V9L 6M8

**Re: Municipality of North Cowichan Official Community Plan Update Project**

Dear Ms. Thompson,

The Municipality of North Cowichan is currently undergoing an update to its Official Community Plan (OCP) - a long-range, forward-thinking plan that sets out the future of our community for the next 20 years. North Cowichan adopted its existing OCP in 2011. Although amendments have occurred since then, there have been few significant revisions to the OCP despite the rapidly changing local, regional, provincial and national contexts.

The project was initiated by Council in 2019 based on direction from Council's 2019-2022 Strategic Plan. The goal is to undertake a community-driven project in a way that better addresses local area planning and modernizes the OCP in the face of policy, demographic, environmental and technological change. North Cowichan Council has acknowledged we are facing a climate emergency and has further resolved to look at all applicable decisions through a climate lens, including rewriting the OCP.


Council recently resolved, "That Council seek the advice and recommendations from the following key stakeholders in relation to the land use policy development to be included in the revised Official Community Plan for North Cowichan, and ask that they provide their opinions on what they believe is necessary to achieve Council's goals of restoration and regeneration of the municipality's lakes, streams, estuaries and rivers, and of protecting biodiversity:

- Cowichan Land Trust
- Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society
- Cowichan Watershed Board
- Quamichan Watershed Stewardship Society
- Cowichan Estuary Restoration & Conservation Association"

This letter is being sent to you today in fulfilment of this resolution, and we invite your comments at your earliest convenience. We further invite comments from your organization throughout the OCP development process, and encourage you to follow the project by visiting [www.northcowichan.ca/ocp](http://www.northcowichan.ca/ocp).

If you would like to discuss anything regarding the project, please contact me at (250)746-3155 or at [chris.hutton@northcowichan.ca](mailto:chris.hutton@northcowichan.ca).

Sincerely,



Chris Hutton, MCIP RPP  
Community Planning Coordinator

Attachment: Report from Councillor Justice.

# Council Member Motion

Notice given on: February 17, 2021

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Meeting Date      Wednesday, March 3, 2021  
From                Councillor Justice  
Subject             Advice from Key Stakeholders in relation to the Official Community Plan

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## Background

There are several community organisations that have significant experience, expertise and important local knowledge that may help us create policy that helps to achieve our goals of restoration and regeneration of the municipality's lakes streams and rivers.

Some of these organizations have indicated that they are not comfortable volunteering their recommendations - unless such information is directly requested - for fear of appearing political and/or endangering their charitable status.

A request from North Cowichan would thus give these organisations the opportunity to help North Cowichan make some stronger policy decisions should they choose to do so.

This should have minimal impact on staff, time. The request for advice could make clear that what is desired is a simple written submission within a reasonable time frame that suits the OCP schedule, and that it should be based on publically available documents.

## Recommendation

That Council seek the advice and recommendations from the following key stakeholders in relation to the land use policy development to be included in the revised Official Community Plan for North Cowichan, and ask that they provide their opinions on what they believe is necessary to achieve Council's goals of restoration and regeneration of the municipality's lakes streams and rivers:

- Cowichan Land Trust
- Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society
- Cowichan Watershed Board
- Quamichan Watershed Stewardship Society

Attachment: