



# Cowichan Watershed Board

DRAFT

February 2, 2023

**Re: Support for “Witnessing the Water” book project.**

To Whom it May Concern

The Cowichan Watershed Board is pleased to offer this letter in support of the Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society’s project to create a coffee-table book, *Witnessing the Water - an authentic relationship*, pending approval of the book’s Preface by the Cowichan Tribes Communications Liaison.

This project promises to be a valuable contribution to one of the Watershed Board’s seven targets: *The people of the Cowichan Valley understand and value that their well being is interconnected with the well-being of their watershed.*

CLRSS is a valued participating member in the Watershed Connections Working Group, tasked with advancing that Target. The Watershed Board appreciates this substantial contribution to that collaborative effort, along with ongoing excellent work of the CLRSS.

We understand that there is no financial or volunteer expectation from this expression of Support in Principle, although the Cowichan Watershed Board looks forward to assisting CLRSS in any way it can to support the success of this project.

Sincerely,

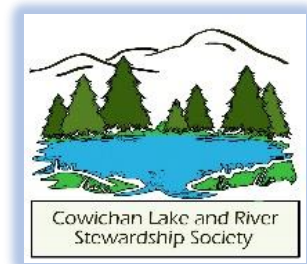
Chief Lydia Hwitsum  
CoChair of the Cowichan Watershed Board  
Chief of Cowichan Tribes First Nation

Chair Aaron Stone  
CoChair of the Cowichan Watershed Board  
Chair of the Cowichan Valley Regional District

## **About the Cowichan Watershed Board:**

The Cowichan Watershed Board (CWB) is a local governance model created in 2010 to provide leadership for sustainable water management in the Cowichan/Koksilah watersheds, ancestral home of the Quw’utsun First Nation. The CWB is co-chaired by Cowichan Tribes and the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) and represents a unique partnership between First Nations and local government. Through this model, Cowichan Tribes and the CVRD work together to advance whole-of-watershed health, demonstrating a commitment to moving down the path of reconciliation.

*Cowichan Watershed Board, 4335 Riverside Rd, Duncan BC, V9L 6M8*  
[www.cowichanwatershedboard.ca](http://www.cowichanwatershedboard.ca) | [info@cowichanwatershedboard.ca](mailto:info@cowichanwatershedboard.ca) | 250-709-0492



February 22, 2023

**Witnessing the Water – an authentic relationship** - a coffee table book being produced by the Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society

Acknowledgment:

It is with tremendous gratitude and respect that we acknowledge the environmental stewardship and relationship to the land and waters facilitated within the traditional laws of First Nations since time immemorial and continuing to this day. Specifically, we acknowledge this relationship between the *Quw'utsun Mustimuhw* (Cowichan People) and their unceded traditional lands and waters, as the *Snuw'uy'ulh* (Teachings) are enacted to uphold the role of stewardship. Respecting the *Snuw'uy'ulh* (Teachings) of the *Quw'utsun Mustimuhw* (Cowichan People), this book endeavours to tell an holistic story of water, one that is reciprocal, interconnected, and, interdependent. We are honoured to have the words of several *Quw'utsun Mustimuhw* (Cowichan People) included in these pages. We recognize this effort is but one very small part of the many good works underway throughout the watershed, in a much-needed process of developing an authentic relationship with the waters in our home.

*Huy tseep q'u* (Thank you all),  
The Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society (CLRSS)