

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CVRD joins other Island governments in adopting new bylaw adjudication system

DUNCAN, BC – The Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) is introducing a new Bylaw Dispute Adjudication System in addition to municipal ticketing, which will allow some bylaw disputes to be dealt with at the local level, rather than the Provincial Court system.

Under the new system, Bylaw Offence Notices can be disputed out of court with an adjudicator appointed by the Provincial Attorney General's Office. The new system simplifies the dispute process and makes it more convenient for disputants, as their attendance at an adjudication hearing is not mandatory. It also removes bylaw violations from the Provincial court system, and reduces the need to employ lawyers or enforcement officers to take a case to court.

Residents wishing to dispute a Bylaw Offence Notice will have 14 calendar days upon receipt of the notice to dispute it. This is done by filling out information on the rear of the notice and delivering it or mailing or emailing it to the Cowichan Valley Regional District offices at 175 Ingram St. in Duncan where it will be reviewed by a Screening Officer. If the Screening Officer determines that the notice will be upheld, the disputant will be offered the choice of:

- Paying the full amount of the fine (not eligible for discounted amount).
- Entering into a compliance agreement, if available, which establishes terms and conditions for compliance, including time periods for payment of penalties and plans to cease or remedy the bylaw contraventions that gave rise to the Bylaw Offence Notice. As a term of the compliance agreement, the Screening Officer may authorize a reduction of the prescribed penalty by 50%.
- Requesting a bylaw dispute adjudication hearing.

The next steps for residents who wish to request a bylaw dispute adjudication hearing are laid out on the [Bylaw Dispute Adjudication System](#) webpage of the CVRD website.

For more information please contact:

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