

# CVRD UPDATE

COWICHAN VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT



**Latest News: Statement from CVRD Board Chair: Cowichan Valley Transit Strike**



**Tackling Drought & Non-Essential Water Consumption**



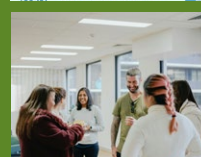
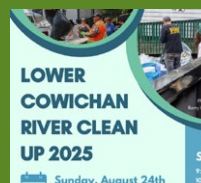
**A.I. Upskilling Program for Small Businesses on Vancouver Island**

## Koksilah Watershed Highlight - Every Drop Counts!



Did you know that the Koksilah River, located south of Duncan is currently experiencing extremely low flows? Many of the large farms are co-operating to alternate water use. All water users in the watershed are being asked to do their part and reduce household water use by 50%.

4



### Events

Check out some of the latest events happening in August & September!

3

### Careers at CVRD!

Come work with us! Check out our featured job opportunities in the Cowichan area.

7



## CVRD Board and Committee Highlights

*The following meeting highlights do not include all meeting items and while the following content is copied from meeting agenda packages and minutes, it may be edited or summarized for clarity and readability to suit a general audience. Meeting agenda packages and minutes are available on the [CVRD.ca](https://cprd.ca) website.*

### Upcoming CVRD Meetings:

Board: Sept. 10, 2025

Committee of the Whole (COTW): Sept. 10, 2025

Electoral Area Services Committee (EASC): Sept. 3, 2025

**For COTW, EASC & Board Meeting Agendas & Minutes, visit: <https://pub-cprd.escribemeetings.com/>**

[Watch the Meetings](#)

## Board and Committee Meetings to resume in September 2025

The Cowichan Valley Regional District's Board of Directors, EASC and Committee of the Whole meetings are on a scheduled break for the month of August 2025. Meetings will resume in September 2025. To view previous meetings, please visit our CVRD [YouTube](#) channel.

## New ESCRIBE platform for CVRD Legislative Services starting September 2025

The CVRD Legislative Services team is excited to launch a new meeting management platform, eSCRIBE, starting August 29, 2025. This software will centralize the meeting calendar, agendas, minutes, and access to livestreamed meetings — all in one convenient location. Please note: Archived meeting materials may be temporarily unavailable during the transition. We will provide an update as soon as they become accessible.

eSCRIBE offers a streamlined, user-friendly layout, improves access to meeting information, and enhances communication and collaboration across the organization and to the public.

To learn more, please visit [cprd.ca](https://cprd.ca) and check the [Legislative Services webpage](#) on or after August 29.

## CVRD MEETING & EVENT CALENDAR

### Calendar

Find local events, Board & Committee meetings, online and in-person CVRD information meetings. Sign up to get notified and subscribe to the calendar.

## Events - Cowichan Performing Arts Centre SOS – The ABBA Experience

**September 12, 2025 at 7:30 pm**

**Regular price: \$55**

The buzz is real – and it's coming your way! This isn't just a show, but an ABBA-charged celebration unlike anything you've experienced before. SOS – The ABBA Experience takes the Cowichan Performing Arts Centre by storm on September 12, 2025, and you do not want to miss it!

From the second the lights go up, it's non-stop energy, iconic hits, stunning costumes, and the kind of connection that turns an evening out into an unforgettable memory. And the best part? You're part of it. Sing. Dance. Celebrate. This is a night where the audience helps create the magic.

Visit the [CPAC website](#) for tickets and information.



## Events - Cowichan Performing Arts Centre



### Ikons of Rock

September 19, 2025 at 7:30 pm

Regular price: \$69

Student/Child \$49

Join the Crazy Train of Amazing Tributes to OZZY OSBOURNE, Alice Cooper, the Eagles, Fleetwood Mac, Queen, Motley Crue, Lita Ford, Poison, Tom Petty, Heart, Kiss, Cher, Def Leppard, Van Halen, Joan Jett, Pat Benatar, Journey and more. It's like watching over a dozen fabulous tribute shows in one evening.

Visit the [CPAC website](#) for tickets and information.

## Events

### Lower Cowichan River Clean Up 2025

Join the Cowichan Watershed Board and Cowichan Tribes for the 15th annual Lower Cowichan River Cleanup on Sunday, August 24th!

All are welcome and no experience is necessary.

By joining us, you can help make our river a safer and healthier place for creatures and people alike. Afterwards, enjoy a free BBQ lunch with neighbours, friends, and connections new and old.

This year, we are also excited to team up with the Cowichan Estuary Nature Centre and Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society to broaden our reach. Together, we can help to welcome the salmon home!

Learn more by visiting our [Facebook event page](#)!

**LOWER COWICHAN RIVER CLEAN UP 2025**

**Sunday, August 24th**  
FROM 9:30AM TO 2:30PM

**SI'EM LELUM GYMNASIUM, 5574 RIVER RD, DUNCAN (CHECK-IN LOCATION)**

The Quw'utsun Sto'lo' (Cowichan River) gives life to the valley we call home. Help us give back to the river at our annual community cleanup and support the health of our watershed for generations to come!

Scan the QR code to learn more and RSVP to our Facebook event. More questions? Email [rivercleanup@cowichanwatershedboard.ca](mailto:rivercleanup@cowichanwatershedboard.ca)

**Schedule**  
9:30AM - Sign-in  
10:00AM - Welcome  
10:30AM - Cleanup  
1:00PM - Volunteer BBQ

**What to bring?**  
Pack sturdy, get-wet shoes, sunscreen and a hat, a water bottle, gloves. You may also bring swimwear, a snorkel, and/or flotation!



## Did You Know?



Did you know that the Koksilah River, located south of Duncan is currently experiencing extremely low flows? Many of the large farms are co-operating to alternate water use. All water users in the watershed are being asked to do their part and reduce household water use by 50%.

The Koksilah is especially vulnerable to drought because there is no natural or human made reservoir to help control water flows throughout the year. Excess rainfall from winter months is unable to be stored and used to maintain flows during the drought season. The river is also home to many species of fish who, like us, are stressed by the heat. Please be mindful when spending time near the river and do not catch or trap the young salmon.

Watch a video to learn more about the Koksilah River Watershed.

Explore water conservation at [cowichanadapts.ca](https://cowichanadapts.ca)

## Tackling Drought & Non-Essential Water Consumption

### CVRD FACEBOOK

Help conserve water by understanding more about drought, where your local community water comes from and how to reduce water consumption during water restrictions. Small changes can have big impacts!

Check out the BC Drought Information Portal: <https://ow.ly/gaCp50REVhm> for maps, drought levels and info on Vancouver Island conditions.

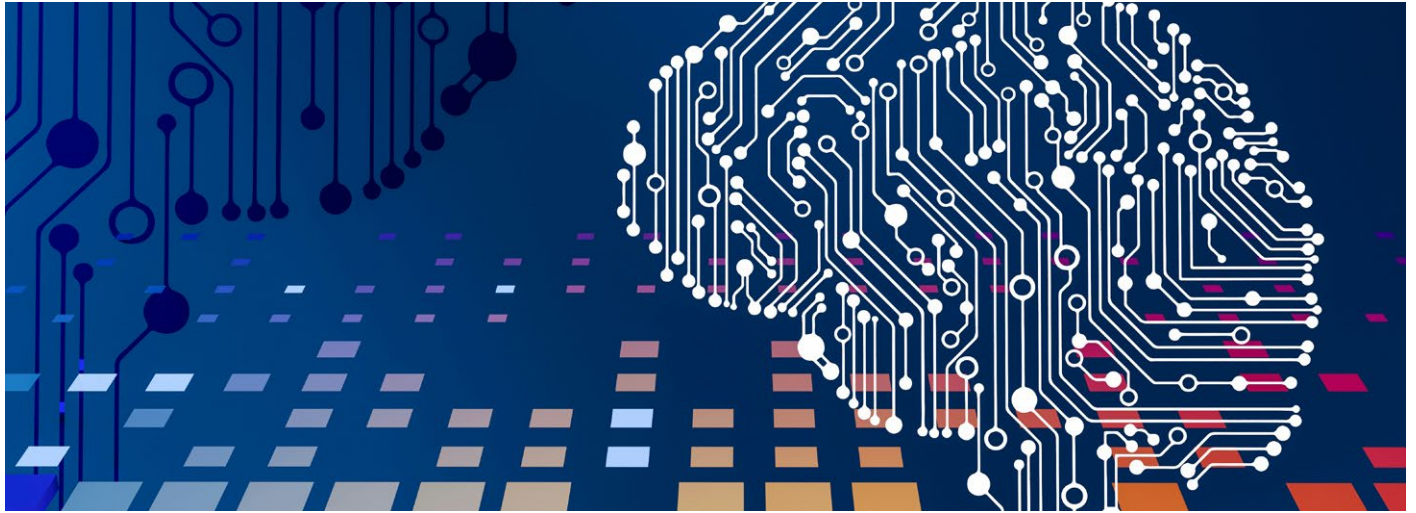
Drought and water use restrictions in the Cowichan area: <https://ow.ly/4xl350REVhl>

CVRD Climate Change: <https://ow.ly/4Agh50REVhr>

BC Quick Guide for Farmers & Agriculture drought support: <https://ow.ly/OtWk50REVhg>



## LATEST NEWS



### NEWS RELEASE

## First Artificial Intelligence upskilling program for small businesses on Vancouver Island

**Economic Development Cowichan and Community Futures Central Island (CFCI) are bringing the first regionally focused Artificial Intelligence (AI) training program to Vancouver Island, designed specifically for small businesses, nonprofits, and solopreneurs.**

The program, titled AI Upskilling Central Island for Small Business: Work Smarter, Not Harder with AI, offers practical, hands-on learning to help participants harness Artificial Intelligence to save time, streamline operations, and boost productivity. With support from the Province of British Columbia, the program combines expert-led workshops, one-on-one support, and a collaborative learning community.

“We are proud to lead the way in supporting Cowichan businesses that want to leverage AI in practical ways to improve operations,” said Barry O’Riordan, Manager of Economic Development Cowichan. “Sign up soon, as space is limited.”

Over three months, participants will attend three interactive workshops and access ongoing support including four AI office hours with industry experts, access to the local AI community of practice, and tools, templates, and practical resources to put ideas into action. By the end of the program, participants will have the skills and strategies to confidently integrate AI into their business.

This program is ideal for business owners and nonprofit leaders across the Regional District of Nanaimo and the Cowichan Valley Regional District, including rural communities and the municipalities of Duncan, Lake Cowichan, Ladysmith, and North Cowichan. It is designed for leaders facing staffing shortages, burnout, operational inefficiencies, or pressures to modernize.

Valued at \$2,999, the program is offered at a deeply discounted rate. The first 10 seats are offered at \$199; the next 5 at \$249; and the final 5 seats at \$299. Complete all three workshops and receive a \$100 credit toward future Advanced AI sessions launching in 2026.

Full [News Release](#)



## LATEST NEWS



### NEWS RELEASE

## Statement from the Chair of the CVRD Board re: Cowichan Valley transit strike

**“On behalf of the Cowichan Valley Regional District, I want to express our increasing concern with the ongoing community impact of the public transit strike.**

Now the longest transit strike in British Columbia’s history, our residents who rely on public transit have faced undue hardships over the last six months without access to this vital public service. This labour dispute between BC Transit’s contractor – Transdev Canada – and their unionized employees is disproportionately impacting the most vulnerable people in our communities. This includes our youth, seniors, people with disabilities, and those who cannot afford a vehicle. For these most vulnerable groups, the inability to access transit has resulted in missed medical appointments, lost jobs, interrupted education, hitchhiking risks, and increased loneliness and isolation.

We’ve heard directly from residents and families across the region about the direct impacts on their lives and wellbeing. A family in Honeymoon Bay, one of our western most and isolated communities, wrote to us about the necessity for transit to ensure they and their seven children have access to essential healthcare services given their significant health issues.

A family in Shawnigan Lake told us about their challenges in accessing adult education and apprenticeship programs, jeopardizing their education as well as significantly increasing travel costs to Duncan and North Cowichan.

Full [News Release](#)

---

## Important Notices!

- **CVRD Recreation Guide - Fall 2025**

Looking for a new fitness routine or recreation program to try? Check out local recreation activities in your local area of Cowichan! The [Fall 2025 Recreation guide](#) is available. Register online at [reccowichan.ca](https://reccowichan.ca)

- **CVRD Water Restrictions at Stage 3**

All CVRD operated water systems and participating partner systems are at STAGE 3 watering restrictions. For information on what watering is allowed, visit the [CowichanAdapts.ca](https://CowichanAdapts.ca) website. Please conserve water in your community, thank you!

- **BC Fire Bans in effect for Coastal area**

Visit the [Coastal Fire Centre](#) for information on the current BC fire bans in local areas. For local emergency information and advisories, visit Emergency Management Cowichan at [emcowichan.ca](https://emcowichan.ca).

## CAREERS at CVRD

### Featured Job Opportunity: Local FireSmart Representative

Join our organization! A temporary full time Local FireSmart Representative position is available in the Emergency Management Cowichan Division within the Community Services Department at the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD). This temporary position is expected to run until September 12, 2026, with the possibility of extension, subject to funding. Reporting to the Manager, Emergency Operations & Planning and supervised by the FireSmart Coordinator, the Local FireSmart Representative will assist in the implementation and maintenance of the Cowichan FireSmart program.

Visit our [Careers Page](#) for more job opportunities!

**APPLY**

## CVRD Bids & Tenders

Looking for a Cowichan Valley Regional District bid posting? Visit [CVRD bids webpage](#).

If you are a consultant, service provider, contractor, vendor, or supplier, this is a convenient place for you to find out about current bidding and contract opportunities.

CONTRACTING OPPORTUNITIES

CVRD Procurement

### CVRD Current Contracting Opportunities available:

- EOI 25-24 Donation of Material & Professional/Construction Services for Bandshell at Cobble Hill Common – Area C Sep 2nd 2025, 2:00 PM PDT
- RFP# 25-27 Land Management Software Sep 4th 2025, 2:00 PM PDT
- ITT# 25-28 Watermain Connection - Saltair Wells to Saltair Water Treatment Building Sep 4th 2025, 2:00 PM PDT

## CVRD Office Closure

The CVRD Ingram Street offices at 175 Ingram St. in Duncan will be closed Monday, Sept. 1st for the Labour Day holiday. We'll re-open on Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2025 with main reception hours of 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

CVRD Recycling Facilities are closed on all statutory holidays. For more information please visit: [cvrld.ca](https://cvrld.ca)



**Cowichan Valley Regional District**

| 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, B.C. V9L 1N8 | Phone: 250.746.2500

| Email: [Communications@cvrd.bc.ca](mailto:Communications@cvrd.bc.ca)

**Work with us at the CVRD! Visit: [Careers at cvrd.ca](https://careers.cvrld.ca)**

[Update email preferences](#)



Engage at  
Plan Your  
Cowichan!



Subscribe  
Newsletter