

News Release

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Elected officials anticipate productive discussions at UBCM annual convention

Whistler, BC – The Cowichan Valley Regional District has two resolutions going forward at the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) 115th Annual Convention being held this week in Whistler, BC.

The CVRD's CAO and seven Electoral Area Directors are in attendance at what is considered the most important yearly gathering of local government leaders in the province, where they anticipate meetings with multiple provincial ministry officials to discuss issues facing the region.

"This weeklong event has become a critical place for us to gather with our fellow elected officials from across the province and learn from each other, as well as sit down for more formal face time with senior government staff and officials," said Jon Lefebure, Chair of the Cowichan Valley Regional District. "We have some serious issues currently facing our region, and this has always proven to be the perfect forum for local governments to address them and seek solutions in an open and constructive manner."

The first resolution being put forward by the CVRD is a proposed amendment to the Environmental Management Act that would restrict the permitting of landfills in reclaimed mines and quarries where there is reasonable potential for surface and groundwater contamination. The second is a proposal related to the limitations of power and authority for regional districts to respond to growth and urbanization in electoral areas. The resolution asks for a comprehensive review of the Local Government Act to ensure regional districts like the CVRD have the capacity to address evolving community demands that would match those afforded to municipalities under the Community Charter.

"These two resolutions are directly related to challenges we're facing in our communities, but also have the potential to benefit communities across the province through better protection of water resources and enhanced land use planning authority," said Brian Carruthers, CAO of the Cowichan Valley Regional District. "We look forward to engaging with the provincial government on these and other issues this week in an effort to further improve the quality of life across our region."

The CVRD is meeting with provincial ministries throughout the week, including the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure to discuss Approving Officer authority for the CVRD and roadside pathway standards for regional districts.

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