

# CVRD UPDATE

COWICHAN VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT



 **Latest News: New Cowichan Adapts Website Provides Climate Change Information**

 **Results of AAP for Shawnigan Village Water Service**

 **Transit Service Agreement with Halalt First Nation**

## Let's Talk Agricultural Zoning!

We're developing a NEW Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw for the CVRD's Electoral Areas.



Join us for a conversation with CVRD staff and others in your community on Nov. 5, 2024 for a Public Meeting at Heritage Hall, Cowichan Community Centre and learn more about updates to Zoning bylaws for all nine of the Electoral Areas.

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### Backyard Burning

Know the Rules for Open Burning in the CVRD from October 15 to November 15.

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### Careers at CVRD!

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

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## CVRD Board and Committee Highlights

The following meeting highlights do not include all meeting items; meeting agenda packages and minutes are available on the [CVRD.ca](https://cvrld.ca) website.

### Upcoming CVRD Meetings:

Regular Board & Special Board: October 30, 2024

Committee of Whole (COTW): October 30, 2024

Electoral Area Services Committee (EASC): November 6, 2024

For COTW, EASC & Board Meeting Agendas & Minutes, visit:  
<https://cvrld.primegov.com/public/portal>

Watch the Meetings

## Aaron Stone Departs Role as CVRD Board Chair

On September 25, The Board of Directors individually expressed their thanks and appreciation to Chair Stone for his leadership, commitment, and desire for the best for the community and expressed their sincere wishes for Chair Stone's future endeavors. Chair Stone noted that it was an honour and privilege to serve with the Board of Directors and a joy to work with staff throughout the organization.

Vice-Chair Kate Segall is presiding as Acting Chair until the Board votes for a new Chairperson in November 2024.

## Report from the Communications and Engagement Division Re: Community Satisfaction Survey

It was moved and seconded on October 9, 2024 that it be recommended to the Board:

1. That the CVRD conduct an updated Community Satisfaction Survey in Q4 2024; and
2. That the 2024 budget for Function 100 be amended to
  - a. Increase expenditures by \$25,000; and
  - b. Increase contributions from General Government reserves by \$25,000.

## Staff Report from Emergency Management Division Re: Penelakut Tribe Fire Dispatch Agreement 2024-2028

The CVRD has provided fire dispatch services including paging, operational radio and fire dispatch services to the Penelakut Island Fire Department and Medical Responder Group under a service agreement for the period of 2019-2023. The Penelakut Tribe wishes to renew the fire dispatch services agreement for the five (5) year term of January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2028. It was moved and seconded that the Cowichan Valley Regional District enter into a five-year (5) year agreement with Penelakut Tribe for the period of January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2028, for the provision of Fire Dispatch services to the Penelakut Island Fire Department and Medical Responder Group.

## Discontinuation of Transit Fare Tickets and the Full Transition to Electronic Fare Products (Update)

As of October 1, 2024, riders will need to use cash or electronic payment methods like reloadable cards or smartphone apps. This transition is part of a broader effort to modernize fare collection across the Province. While CVRD vendor sites will continue to sell electronic fare products, traditional monthly passes and tickets will no longer be available. BC Transit is also working on implementing contactless payment options like debit and credit card taps on board transit.

### Fares

subject to change

Cash, DayPASS and Umo fare products are accepted on board. Paper tickets and passes remaining circulation will continue to be accepted. Umo is currently not applicable to handyDART.

#### Local Fares

Children 12 and under	Free
Single Ride	\$ 2.25
DayPASS <i>Available on-board</i>	4.50
Adult 30-Day Pass	50.00
Concession 30-Day Pass	**38.00
Post-Secondary 30-Day Pass	***38.00
Post-Secondary Semester Pass (4 months)	***125.00

\* An electronic DayPASS will be applied to a Umo app or card after payment on the second trip of the day. A paper DayPASS can be purchased from the driver with cash.

\*\* Concession fare valid for youth aged 13-18 and persons aged 65 and over with valid identification.

\*\*\* Adult students in full-time attendance at a recognized post-secondary school. No other discounted fares.

## Cowichan Valley Regional Transit

### RIDER'S GUIDE

Effective October 1, 2024



## Transit Service Agreement with Halalt First Nation

It was recommended to the Board on September 11, 2024 that the Cowichan Valley Regional District enter into a five-year Transit Service Agreement with Halalt First Nation commencing October 1, 2024, as described in the staff report to the September 11, 2024 Committee of the Whole.

## Shawnigan Village Water System Service – Alternative Approval Process Results

Results of Alternative Approval Process (AAP) for the CVRD's acquisition of the Shawnigan Village Water System were received and approved at the October 2, 2024 Special Board meeting. Staff report recommendations from the Utilities Division that the 2024 Budget be amended to include a new function for the Shawnigan Village Water System Service for the 2024 budget year, effective from the date of CVRD acquisition was moved and seconded.

## 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.

## Feature Story

### Cobble Hill's First FireSmart Recognized Community: Springwood Park Leads the Way

Springwood Park in Cobble Hill is celebrating FireSmart Neighbourhood Recognition! Homeowners are pursuing a plan developed in collaboration with Trevor Reid, FireSmart Co-ordinator for Emergency Management Cowichan (EMC), and Fire Prevention Officer, Lieutenant Arnie Sanford of the Mill Bay Fire Department to reduce the wildfire hazards in their community.

Springwood Park Mobile Home Community, like many mobile home parks face challenges such as high building densities, emergency access challenges, and hazardous vegetation. Residents collaborating with their neighbours and FireSmart have made significant progress in reducing wildfire risks and developing plans for future improvements to their neighbourhood.

For their first year of FireSmart recognition, these pro-active seniors led their fellow residents on a pathway to resilience by focusing on key projects such as installing hi-visibility address markers for emergency response, working with Park management renovating a critical water supply building, and removing highly-combustible conifers near homes. Community residents were thrilled to see all the positive changes made in just one year. On July 16, 2024 we celebrated their achievements throughout 2023 with live music and a barbeque.

At the celebratory BBQ homeowners expressed a sense of accomplishment and looked forward to participating in future efforts.

Barb Bennett, a Springwood Park resident, shared her experience:

“My husband and I are retired on a fixed income. We knew our home was vulnerable to wildfire but we’ve found it challenging to keep up with the maintenance. The FireSmart Team provided an assessment that really focused our efforts on the easiest and most effective improvements to our home. Our whole neighbourhood has been talking about wildfire safety this summer and I think we’ve made really positive changes here.”



*Image: Sarah Jackman, Local FireSmart Representative from EMC presents a Neighbourhood Recognition Sign to neighbourhood committee members Suzanne Frenette and Willem Seinen in front of the newly renovated water distribution building, part of the community's wildfire resilience plan.*



*Image: Springwood Park residents enjoy a celebratory BBQ for achieving FireSmart Neighbourhood Recognition.*

It takes a community to defend against wildfire and working together realizes more effective results. Recognition is renewed annually through ongoing mitigation projects such as hedge pruning and enhanced home construction.

EMC's regional FireSmart representatives are looking for other neighbourhoods ready to be proactive in adapting to the increasing wildfire threat. Interested homeowners can contact EMC for a community presentation and hazard assessment. Once the assessment is complete, homeowners form a FireSmart Committee to submit their plan to FireSmartBC. Neighbourhood committees plan their community activities annually through informal meetings to maintain their FireSmart status. With funds available from FireSmart BC for local plans and to celebrate successes, the path to a safer, more resilient community is clear.

Contact: Emergency Management Cowichan (EMC)

Website: [FireSmart information](#)

## Let's Talk Agricultural Zoning! - Public Meeting

### Agricultural Zoning Public Meeting - Tuesday, November 5, 2024

Heritage Hall, Cowichan Community Centre,  
Duncan, BC

6 PM - 8 PM (brief presentation starts at 6:00  
pm followed by small group discussions)

In the CVRD, agriculturally zoned lands include all lands within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR)([External link](#)), plus lands that have high agricultural potential, as identified in the anticipated Modernized Official Community Plan (MOCP).

Currently, there are 36 distinct agricultural zones within the CVRD's existing zoning bylaws. As part of the development of a new region-wide Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw (CZB) for the CVRD's nine electoral areas, the CVRD is updating its agricultural zoning regulations.

For more information, visit: [planyourcowichan.ca/zoning-bylaw-project](http://planyourcowichan.ca/zoning-bylaw-project)



### Agricultural Zoning Public Meeting Tuesday, November 5 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM Heritage Hall, Cowichan Community Centre

The CVRD is developing a NEW Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw for its nine electoral areas. As part of this we are updating agricultural zoning. Join us for a conversation with CVRD staff and others in your community to learn more about proposed zoning changes and share your input!

### Registration required by Sunday, November 3

Use one of the following options to register and receive event details:

Scan the QR Code  
to go to Eventbrite:



Type the link below  
into your browser:

[www.eventbrite.ca/e/cvrd-agricultural-zoning-public-meeting-free-tickets-1037192289057](http://www.eventbrite.ca/e/cvrd-agricultural-zoning-public-meeting-free-tickets-1037192289057)

For assistance  
registering, email:

[zoning@cvrd.bc.ca](mailto:zoning@cvrd.bc.ca)



## Important Notices!

- **Holt Creek Bridge Replacement Closures: Project Update:**

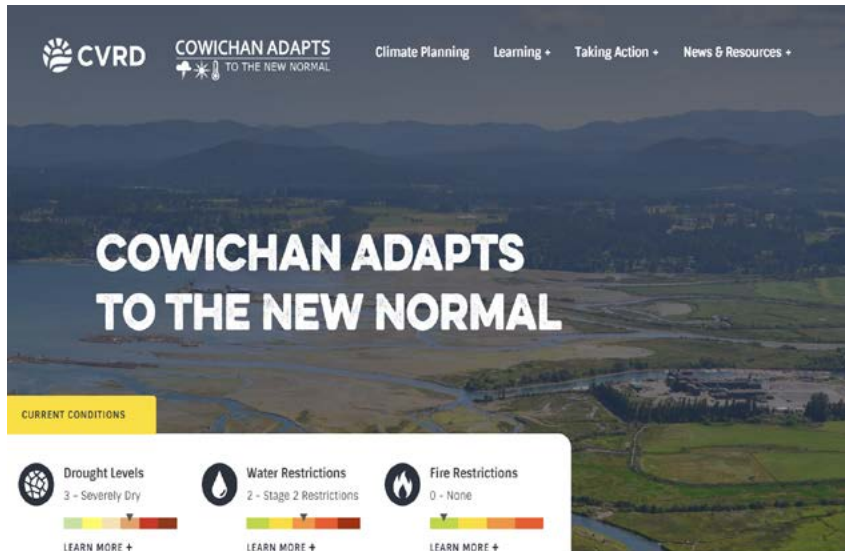
Visit the [Province of BC website](#) for more information.

- **CVRD Water Restrictions move to Stage 1:**

Effective October 7, 2024: CVRD water systems in the Cowichan region have moved to [Stage 1 water restrictions](#) effective immediately except Woodley Range (Stage 3 permanent).

- **BC River Forecast Centre - Flood Warning Advisory Notifications:**

Storm season in BC is starting, stay up to date on advisories for [localized flooding and highstream flows](#) and sign up for [Alertable](#) to receive emergency notifications.



NEWS RELEASE

# New 'Cowichan Adapts' Website Provides Climate Change Information

The CVRD is pleased to announce the launch of a new website for residents as a tool to find current information on climate change, drought conditions and water restrictions in the region.

Formerly known as the New Normal, [www.CowichanAdapts.ca](http://www.CowichanAdapts.ca) is an important resource for residents to access information about climate change, a global issue that is impacting BC communities at a local level.

With changing climatic conditions like hotter and drier summers, wetter winters, and more intensive storms comes the

increased likelihood of impacts including prolonged heat waves, wildfires, droughts, and flooding.

The CVRD and Climate Adaptation Partners have developed a regional Climate Adaptation Strategy which includes local solutions to help us prepare. Visit: [Cowichan Adapts Implementation Plan](#)

## LATEST NEWS

### CVRD joins other Island governments in adopting new bylaw adjudication system

The 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. Find out more on the [Bylaw Dispute Adjudication webpage](#) or read the [News Release](#).



## Backyard Burning Window - Know the Rules



CVRD FACEBOOK

October 15 - November 15

The open burning window begins on October 15 and runs until November 15.

Do you know the rules and restrictions?

The open burning window applies to Electoral Areas A, B, C, D, E and G (excluding the Gulf Islands) under Smoke Control Regulation Bylaw No. 3716. Electoral Areas F, H, and I must adhere to restrictions set in place by the [Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy](#).

The Cowichan Valley is a high smoke sensitivity zone. To protect local air quality during the open burning window, residents must check the [South Vancouver Island Venting Index](#) and only burn when rated "GOOD".

For more information about the rules, visit: <https://www.cvr.ca/2956/Know-the-Rules>

# CAREERS at CVRD

## Featured Job Opportunity: Solid Waste Compliance Officer

Reporting to the Senior Manager, Recycling & Waste Management Division and working collaboratively with Division staff, the Solid Waste Compliance Officer ensures compliance with CVRD solid waste bylaws by building relationships with customers and promoting public education and awareness of the bylaws to reduce contamination in recyclables, maximize waste diversion, reduce human-wildlife conflict associated with curbside collection, and support recycling centre safety for customers and staff.

**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:

- RFP# 24-32 Supply and Delivery of Glass Recycling Bins and Kitchen Catchers
- RFP# 24-33 Supply & Delivery of One (1) Stand Up Right Hand Drive Single Axle Side Load Waste Collection Truck
- RFP# 24-34 Indigenous Engagement Facilitation for Emergency Management Cowichan



The CVRD offices located at 175 Ingram St. in Duncan will be closed Monday, Nov. 11, 2024 for the Remembrance Day statutory holiday. Regular office hours of 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. will resume on Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2024.

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



**Cowichan Valley Regional District**

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

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

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