



PUBLIC SAFETY POLICY

Applicability: CVRD Board

Effective Date: January 13, 1999

PURPOSE:

The Cowichan Valley Regional District recognizes that violence is an insidious problem with devastating costs that affects all residents and that violence against any person is unacceptable. Moreover, the District recognizes that one of the groups most at risk of being abused is women and that among women, the most vulnerable groups are visible minorities, aboriginal women, and women with disabilities. The Cowichan Valley Regional District recognizes a need to demonstrate leadership to achieve equality and end violence, and commits to ongoing efforts to prevent violence in our community.

POLICY:

1. It is a goal of the Board to promote communities where all people can freely use public spaces, day or night, without fear of violence, and where people, including women and children and persons with special needs, are safe from violence. Accordingly, the Board shall:
 - a. ensure that all CVRD programs and policies support personal and public safety; and
 - b. adopt development guidelines respecting issues of safety and security and apply those guidelines in its review of Official Community Plans and development proposals.
2. The Cowichan Valley Regional District shall promote safety and security in public places, including streets, parks and open spaces, schools, public transit, and public parts of buildings. To encourage public safety and security for all persons, but with particular attention to women, children, and persons with special needs, the Board will:
 - a. encourage improvement in public safety and security in approvals of building, streetscaping, parks, and other public and private open spaces;
 - b. encourage the design and siting of new buildings to provide visual overlook and easy physical access to adjacent streets, parks, and open spaces, and to allow clear views to parks and open spaces from the street;
 - c. encourage appropriate lighting, visibility, and opportunities for informal surveillance for buildings and open spaces; and
 - d. encourage improvement of existing streets, buildings, parks, and other publicly accessible areas, where existing conditions do not promote public safety and security.

Approved by: CVRD Board Approval date: January 13, 1999
