

## My Election Commitments

### January 2021 Progress Report

Special Note – We all had an unexpected and vastly different year than planned - Covid-19 slowed us down, changed how we interact, and required us to reflect on our community’s strengths and weaknesses in a time of great stress. There is clearly lots of work ahead to build greater community resilience. The commitments I made to you in 2018 remain relevant today and are embedded in the Board’s strategic priorities which were adopted fall of 2020. <https://www.cvrd.ca/DocumentCenter/View/98958/CVRD-Corporate-Strategic-Plan-2020-2022>

Community	
Regular outreach and updates (meetings, information sessions, email, and Facebook)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meetings and info sessions slowed but one virtual community meeting regarding Koksilah Watershed Drought Response was held in July and well attended.</li> <li>• General communications continued through email/facebook</li> </ul>
Cooperate and collaborate with First Nations on important initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active member of the Cowichan Watershed Board (co-chaired by Cowichan Tribes and CVRD) focused on water issues;</li> <li>• Assisting Cowichan Tribes and the Province with community engagement for their Koksilah water sustainability plan scoping initiative.</li> </ul>
Ensure residents have the information they need to plan for emergencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CVRD Emergency Management Info <a href="https://www.cvrd.ca/86/Emergency-Management">https://www.cvrd.ca/86/Emergency-Management</a></li> <li>• Responding to the impacts of winter storms and Covid-19 were a big focus this year for CVRD staff.</li> <li>• Involved with a Short-term Drought Response Collaboration to help the community manage summer drought impacts.</li> <li>• Make sure you are signed up for emergency notifications <a href="https://www.cvrd.bc.ca/2276/Emergency-Notifications?fbclid=IwAR2_dPQYFelqKcQ1DzJjpxpbDicF1RwpZ1DGly-K5DumijQpCuS27fef9cl">https://www.cvrd.bc.ca/2276/Emergency-Notifications?fbclid=IwAR2_dPQYFelqKcQ1DzJjpxpbDicF1RwpZ1DGly-K5DumijQpCuS27fef9cl</a></li> </ul>
Land Use Planning for a Sustainable Future	
Complete a Regional Official Community Plan, including local area plans for Sahtlam & Eagle Heights/Koksilah Business Park areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area E OCP review was superseded by a move to streamline and harmonize the 9 electoral area OCPs into one Regional OCP that will be followed by a modernization process to address critical</li> </ul>

	<p>emerging issues (e.g., population growth, climate change, affordable housing etc.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harmonized OCP in draft form including a local area plan for Cowichan Koksilah.</li> <li>• Community information sessions beginning in February 2021</li> <li>• Modernization work is beginning – I am pressing for this to include a review of regulations to help mitigate Koksilah water issues.</li> </ul>
Focus on ensuring strong zoning bylaws to implement the OCP and local area plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working with staff to bring forward key zoning changes (e.g., accessory building size) as a stop gap measure until zoning bylaws are modernized through the Regional OCP process.</li> </ul>
Engage in meaningful community consultation in land use decision-making processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active, skilled Area E Advisory Planning Commission</li> <li>• Ongoing advocacy for improving CVRD community consultation processes beyond minimum requirements</li> </ul>
Advocate for better land, soil, and ecosystem type inventory information and GIS capabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing advocacy.</li> </ul>
Advocate to adopt leading edge practices specifically in green building, regional planning, active transportation and rezoning amenity contributions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CVRD representative on a Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities climate change action plan initiative. Completed this year was a Territorial Analysis of the region, a survey to identify local government priorities, and the opportunities and barriers they are experiencing, a one day Resilience Conference designed to inform priorities for catalyzing climate change mitigation and adaptation throughout the region Stay tuned as we work to complete a collaborative plan in 2021.</li> </ul>
<b>Water and Natural Environment</b>	
Support for Cowichan Watershed Board to lead “whole of watershed” protection and management for the Cowichan and Koksilah Rivers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appointed to and active member of the Cowichan Watershed Board where I try to bring a “whole of watershed” thinking perspective. <a href="https://cowichanwatershedboard.ca/">https://cowichanwatershedboard.ca/</a></li> </ul>
Advocate for development of a Cowichan/Koksilah Water Sustainability Plan, including implementation of storm water management for the Sh’hwuykwselu watershed to reduce flood risk on Koksilah floodplain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Province funded work in 2020 to scope out the feasibility of conducting a Koksilah water sustainability planning process and I am assisting with community engagement. Recommendations for moving forward will go to the Chief and Minister this spring. <a href="https://www.koksilahwater.ca/">https://www.koksilahwater.ca/</a></li> </ul>

Advocate for "whole of watershed" thinking and collection of information and planning to support sustainable water use and watershed management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuing to work with community led Koksilah Working Group to build on the technical assessment of the Koksilah watershed and provide information about the watershed to Koksilah land owners and residents.</li> <li>Continue to advocate for full implementation of drinking water and watershed protection services.</li> </ul>
Support implementation of soil deposit bylaw to lower risk of dumping of contaminated soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocating for a review and improvements to the soil deposit bylaw which appears to be falling short on protecting our water and watersheds.</li> </ul>
Advocate for a review of private forest management regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocating with Mosaic and the Province for improved forestry practices on private forest land.</li> </ul>

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## Parks and Trails

Continue to support Area E parks and trails master plan projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trail from the corner of (Old) Cowichan Lake behind Hanks roads completed; in 2021 hopefully it will be pushed through to Tipperary Road and Appaloosa Way.</li> </ul>
Continue to advocate for regional thinking, particularly regarding parks, trails, recreation, and growth management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to work with Board on developing a more equitable and efficient regional approach to recreation; the Board has determined that a user-based funding model for the significant recreation facilities throughout the region is preferable. Staff are currently exploring governance options.</li> <li>Continue to advocate for implementation of Cowichan 2050 a framework for guiding regional growth management.</li> </ul>
Work with Cowichan Tribes on initiatives to improve road safety and walkability in the Koksilah Business Park/Eagle Heights area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocating for better coordination of road works to enable road safety/walkability improvements in Eagle Heights neighbourhood. CVRD work underway to identify roadside pathway options and costs for improvements.</li> </ul>
Complete Koksilah Road pilot pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preliminary work to assess feasibility of a pathway along Koksilah Rd. from the HUB to the highway is complete however, no progress has been made on resolving impediments.</li> </ul>

## Governance

Advocate for routine third party reviews of CVRD programs to evaluate and improve service delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land-use Services review was completed and advocating for implementation of improvements as well as continuing to advocate for embedding "routine" reviews into CVRD policy.</li> </ul>
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## Regional Infrastructure

<p>Work with community and volunteer firefighters to ensure community facilities are maintained and meet community needs over the long-term</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sahtlam Firehall - detailed assessment of the building including thorough seismic and firehall functionality assessments are underway.</li> </ul>
<p>Support modernization of BC legislation pertaining to regional districts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for related resolutions through AVICC and UBCM</li> </ul>
<p>Work with Ministry of Transportation staff to improve road safety and condition</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to meet and discuss road condition issues throughout Area E with Jessica Learn, the MOTI ops manager bringing specific issues to MOTI's attention as they arise.</li> <li>• Continue to advocate for MOTI investment.</li> </ul>