



## **MAYOR'S 1<sup>st</sup> QUARTERLY REPORT**

March, 2025



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The first quarter of 2025 has brought many changes, local, federally and internationally. These outside pressures will impact many communities across BC and Canada as tensions between the USA and Canada change almost daily. As previously reported, our long time CAO, Mr. Fernandez has retired, and an Interim CAO, Mark Brown is guiding us during the transition period of searching a permanent replacement. The advertisement seeking a replacement went out on March 21 and after the closing date of April 18<sup>th</sup>, we will begin vetting the applicants for the best fit for the needs of Council and the community. I wish to thank staff for taking on additional responsibilities as we navigate this process.

Councillor Frisby has championed the background work on the possibility of banning harmful sunscreens from use in our community. He has reached out to local businesses with the aim to encourage sale of water safe sunscreens as the weather warms and we see an influx of visitors seeking to recreate in the West Cowichan area. A statement was scheduled to be made in conjunction with International Water Day but was not available. Staff is investigating the possibility of implementing a bylaw banning the sale of harmful sunscreens within the municipal boundaries, ensuring the legality of such a bylaw. This will help protect our heritage River and the aquatic environment.

Budget deliberations occurred on Friday the 28<sup>th</sup> of March in conjunction with a Strategic Plan update. Contrary to social media posts, no decision has been made on the Sewer Treatment Plant upgrades, although preliminary discussions have occurred on possible upgrades moving forward. We continue to work on the current system, with mitigation measures to eradicate some deficiencies identified by senior levels of government. Also, upcoming lobbying to the Provincial Health Ministry is scheduled to discuss the health need gaps in the West Cowichan area.

Finally, a huge shout out to all the volunteers in our community whose contributions contribute to a better community for all.

Tim McGonigle  
Mayor, Lake Cowichan

