

## News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 6, 2023

### **CVRD recycling partnership find recycling opportunities for old theatre seats**

**DUNCAN, BC** – The Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) and Fisher Road Recycling recently worked together to significantly reduce the amount of material destined for landfill when the old auditorium seats from the Cowichan Performing Arts Centre (CPAC) reached their end of life.

The auditorium seating in the CPAC was replaced over the 2022/2023 holiday season, installing new seats that include armrest cupholders for the newly fully-licensed venue. The old seats had been original to the theatre's opening in 1978. The CVRD Arts & Culture division was awarded a grant in 2021 through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) that made replacing the seats possible, as well as other forthcoming renovations to the venue scheduled for July 2023.

Fisher Road Recycling, a local recycling business in Cobble Hill, was contracted to dismantle the various theatre seat components to minimize landfill waste. With resources and knowledge to maximize material reuse and collaboration with various recyclers on Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland, Fisher Road Recycling was able to dismantle the 731 seats, and divert the wood, metal, plastic and foam components from becoming landfill waste.

"The only part of the seats that may get landfilled is the fabric seat cover, although we are working on a solution for it," said Spencer Atkinson, Manager at Fisher Road Recycling. "We are happy to be able to provide solutions to a recycling challenge, and helping our communities keep material out of landfills whenever possible."

The cost of recycling the seats is covered by the ICIP grant, supporting local job opportunities and enhancing the reuse and recycling capacity of the Cowichan region.

"We are very excited to see this kind of collaboration to reduce waste," said Doug Stevens, Manager of Solid Waste Operations for the Cowichan Valley Regional District. "As we don't have a landfill or an incinerator in the region, waste export and disposal are very costly. We all have a part to play to recapture and reuse as much as possible, and this is a great example."

Learn more about upcoming events at the newly renovated Cowichan Performing Arts Centre by visiting <https://cowichanpac.ca/>.

- 30 -

*For more information, please contact:*

Ilse Sarady  
Manager, Recycling and Waste Management  
[Ilse.sarady@cvrd.bc.ca](mailto:Ilse.sarady@cvrd.bc.ca)  
250. 746.2546