

## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 8, 2025



### Statement from the Chair of the CVRD Board re: Cowichan Valley transit strike

**DUNCAN, BC** — “On behalf of the Cowichan Valley Regional District, I want to express our increasing concern with the ongoing community impact of the public transit strike.

Now the longest transit strike in British Columbia’s history, our residents who rely on public transit have faced undue hardships over the last six months without access to this vital public service.

This labour dispute between BC Transit’s contractor – Transdev Canada – and their unionized employees is disproportionately impacting the most vulnerable people in our communities. This includes our youth, seniors, people with disabilities, and those who cannot afford a vehicle. For these most vulnerable groups, the inability to access transit has resulted in missed medical appointments, lost jobs, interrupted education, hitchhiking risks, and increased loneliness and isolation.

We’ve heard directly from residents and families across the region about the direct impacts on their lives and wellbeing. A family in Honeymoon Bay, one of our westernmost and isolated communities, wrote to us about the necessity for transit to ensure they and their seven children have access to essential healthcare services given their significant health issues. A family in Shawnigan Lake told us about their challenges in accessing adult education and apprenticeship programs, jeopardizing their education as well as significantly increasing travel costs to Duncan and North Cowichan.

These are just two of many communications we have received from residents expressing public frustration and dissatisfaction with the length it has taken to reach a resolution. There have also been many residents who have sent letters to their municipal government, and/or expressed their concerns through the media. Non-profit organizations like the Cowichan Valley Basket Society, Chemainus Harvest House, Clements Centre and others have expressed their concern over a significant decline in their respective clients, pointing to the absence of transit as a primary factor in vulnerable residents not receiving support.

The CVRD is not a party to the dispute, and we are respectful of the collective bargaining process. We sincerely hope that the parties will come to an agreement that will restore transit service for the residents of the Cowichan region. The Board of Directors of the Cowichan Valley Regional District is unanimous in recognizing the impacts on our region are becoming increasingly severe. The return of transit services is critical for the wellbeing of our communities. We are requesting that the Province of BC explore all available avenues to support a resolution.”

Kate Segall  
Chair of the CVRD Board of Directors

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