

Regional Collaboration Framework CALL to ACTION



THE COMMUNITIES OF THE COWICHAN REGION EACH HAVE their own unique values, interests, and priorities. They also share many of the same values and aspirations. These include stewarding and improving Cowichan's livability, making this region more sustainable, strengthening community resilience, and building strong, inclusive relationships both within and across communities and jurisdictions.

The communities also recognize that by 2050, the Cowichan region will be a very different place. While the coming changes are uncertain, here are some that can be anticipated:

- A changing local governance context as First Nations expand their land management authorities, capacities and opportunities;
- Significant population growth and demographic change;
- More intense climate change and higher sea levels;
- An evolving regional economy and job market;
- Increasing social pressures, due in part to the region's rising cost of living.

Recognizing that these changes bring challenges of a scope, scale and complexity this region has not seen before, Cowichan local governments have collectively determined to forge a new path forward through an initiative known as the Cowichan 2050 Regional Collaboration Framework. Developed within a context of increasing interdependence, the Framework offers a way for the Cowichan region's local governments to:

- Build more collaborative regional working relationships;
- Improve communications and information sharing;
- Support more coordinated planning on critical, region-wide issues; and
- Establish clear and measurable indicators of progress around regional livability, sustainability, and resilience.

Ultimately, this new approach will enable the Cowichan region to more effectively address current issues, plan for emerging challenges, and achieve significant collective impact at both local and regional scales.

Recognizing that the nature of the work will change over time, the signatories to this Call to Action commit to working with one another and regional partners on implementing the Framework and moving towards a more collaborative and coordinated regional planning approach on critical, Cowichan-wide issues.



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