COAP CITIZENS OVERSIGHT ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT

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Dear Mayor, Council, and staff of North Cowichan, Duncan, Ladysmith, and the Cowichan Valley Regional District Directors,

Thank you for taking the time to read our correspondence. Our organization represents a number of businesses and citizens throughout the Cowichan valley. We appreciate your expertise and dedication to the citizens who choose to raise their families and build their businesses here.

On July 17, 2019, a motion was approved to declare a climate emergency. This is found in section 9.2 of the agenda, as quoted below.

9.2 Request to Local Governments - Declare a Climate Emergency

It was moved and seconded:

Whereas to provide clarity of Council's intention to look at all applicable decisions through a climate lens, including but not limited to: rewriting North Cowichan's Official Community Plan and reviewing the management of North Cowichan's municipal forests, as Council we resolve to:

1. Officially acknowledge we are facing a climate emergency; and
2. Following the hiring of an Environmental Specialist, direct staff to report to Council in 90 days with an integrated climate action strategy that merges:
a. Current municipal initiatives in climate change mitigation and adaption;
b. Climate change related policies and directions outlined in Council's Strategic Plan; and
c. New and existing ideas and actions to implement from the remodelled Climate Action and Energy Plan and/or ones that can be adapted from other jurisdictions or emerging science.

With our resources, the only information or data we were able to find was a letter sent to the council (see attached) in which there is a reference to a report by the UN IPCC, which has been updated several times since July 2019. We were, however, unable to source any other information leading up to, or after, July 2019 which contributed to the declaration of the climate emergency for North Cowichan.

It is our understanding that the climate lens is still in effect, and is being used to implement policy in the OCP, contribute funds to CAEP, as well as influence plans such as the Transportation plan, MNCFR, and Growth hubs.

As the majority of these plans still require public input and engagement, we would like to review the relevant information being used to direct the climate lens, and how it shapes and influences the direction of our municipality as we move forward.

We are requesting data, correspondence details, and information used to declare our current state of climate emergency. If possible, would you, or a staff member, send any information that supports the declaration to contact@coap.ca, please.

Sincerely,

Joseph Enslow,
Adrienne Richards

On behalf of COAP Inc.

We represent business owners, homeowners, renters, retirees, and workers in North Cowichan, Ladysmith, and The Cowichan Regional District