

Appendix A

CMM: CRD Foodlands Access Service Establishment Bylaw

From: Jason Austin <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2025 6:41 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>
Cc: Marg Gardiner (Councillor) <mgardiner@victoria.ca>
Subject: Proposed CRD Foodlands Access bylaw 4602

The Mayor & Council
City of Victoria

Dear Mayor & Council,

I wrote to you on January 15, 21, 22 & 24th 2025 about the proposed CRD Foodlands Access bylaw 4602.

There has been a major development since then - on Monday both North Saanich and Central Saanich councils passed resolutions opposing the CRD proposal:

North Saanich: *"That Council direct the Mayor or Alternate Representative attending the next Capital Regional District Board meeting to voice the District's opposition to the Alternative Approval Process and further, adoption of Bylaw No. 4602 "Foodlands Access Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 2024."*
Central Saanich: *"That the District call on the CRD to reconsider the current foodlands proposal and have a public discussion that includes information on options, evidence, and a public vote."*

There are clear reasons for you to follow the lead of Central Saanich and call on the CRD to reconsider its proposal in a public forum:

- **There is no study to show any benefit to the capital region for this potentially massive expenditure.**
- the CRD proposal does not address the big food producers in the region like the egg producers, chicken producers, meat producers, or the large scale crop farmers. Anything the CRD proposal accomplished would be an unmeasurable ripple on the periphery of the farming world. You should not mistake vocal passion for results.
- the CRD proposal has been put forward as an AAP. Yes, this is legal but is it appropriate for a bylaw that can charge the municipalities over a \$1,000,000 every year? I have been speaking to many people about this AAP and have not found a single person who was aware of it. This is wrong.
- the municipalities who could be charged up to \$1,000,000 were not canvassed, despite CRD staff saying this was essential. Are you aware that Victoria's share of a \$1,000,000 requisition is \$230,000 a year? Don't you think Victoria Council should have been told of that and have the opportunity to give their input?
- there is the technical issue that the AAP notice seems deficient in that it was written as if the \$1,000,000 was a once only charge and the CRD did not disclose to the public it was an annual charge.

Please pass a resolution to the effect that *"the City of Victoria call on the CRD to reconsider the current foodlands proposal, seek input from the region's municipalities, and have a public discussion that includes*

information on options, evidence, and a public vote." This motion leaves the CRD proposal alive, but calls on them to find another path forward by consulting with the municipalities; preparing a business case to show there is a benefit to the public; and putting that before the public for an assent vote.

Sincerely,

Jason Austin
Gatton Farm
Saanichton