



# BUILDING INDUSTRY NEWSLETTER

## Retaining Walls and Fences

### *Input needed on proposed changes to Zoning and Building Bylaws*

North Cowichan is considering bylaw changes that propose to regulate retaining walls and fences within the Building and Zoning Bylaws.

Proposed changes include:

#### *Building Bylaw:*

- A building permit will be required for any retaining wall over 1.2 meters, with Letters of Assurance (Schedules) from a Professional Engineer
- When terraced retaining walls are within 5 times the height of the tallest wall, they are considered a single retaining wall system and would be addressed under one building permit

#### *Zoning Bylaw:*

- Maximum retaining wall height (including any fences within 1.2 meters of the wall) will be set by your maximum fence height as specified in the zone
- When a fence and retaining wall are within 1.2 meters of each other, fence height restrictions will apply to the combination of the two
- Multiple retaining walls must be horizontally spaced by at least the same distance as the height of the wall

***Have your say***

## New Chief Building Inspector



Meet Ben Robertson, North Cowichan's new Chief Building Inspector.

**Questions?  
Send us an email!**

[building@northcowichan.ca](mailto:building@northcowichan.ca)

We encourage the building community to be a part of these bylaw updates and to provide ideas for further improvements to our bylaws. Please provide your comments on the proposed amendments through the Public Hearing process or leave comments and ideas for future additional bylaw changes on the project webpage. The hearing is set for Wednesday, January 18 at 7pm.

- send written comments to [PublicMeetings@northcowichan.ca](mailto:PublicMeetings@northcowichan.ca) (by 1pm on January 16), or
- [speak at the Public Hearing](#), or
- leave an ['ideas' comment](#) on the project page; these comments will be summarized to Council at the hearing

Written submissions to the PublicMeetings email should include your name, address, and state whether you are 'in favour' or 'opposed' to the bylaw amendments. Any submissions received after 1pm on January 16 will not be included in Council's agenda package, but will be read out during the Public Hearing by the Corporate Officer.

To learn more about this initiative and why the bylaw changes are being proposed, visit: [www.connectnorthcowichan.ca/retaining-walls](http://www.connectnorthcowichan.ca/retaining-walls)