

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Forestry Advisory Committee

Adopted by Council: February 15, 2019

Amended by Council: July 17, 2019, July 15, 2020, March 16, 2022, August 17, 2022, and February 21, 2023

MANDATE

The Forestry Advisory Committee (FAC) is a select committee of Council established under section 142 of the [Community Charter](#). The mandate of the committee is to provide a combined indigenous, community and a professional forester's perspective and advice to Council on matters pertaining to the North Cowichan Municipal Forest Reserve, with an emphasis on sustainable forestry, ecological stewardship & sound fiscal management.

DUTIES

The FAC exists to provide support to Council by:

- (a) Advising Council on forest reserve management and resource related issues
- (b) Audit Forestry Department operations; and
- (c) Reviewing and making recommendations to Council regarding the Forestry Department Financial Plan.

The FAC's role in the Forestry Review is to:

- (a) Assist with Council's full review of forestry planning and practices including:
- (b) Provide short-term to long-term recommendations for improvements that will enhance North Cowichan's valuable municipal forest resources.
- (c) Consider all the diverse values of the forest.
- (d) Consider sustainable forest practices that give priority to ecological stewardship and promoting biodiversity.
- (e) As part of the approach, the FAC explore further learning opportunities which include welcoming diverse cultural perspectives, alternative practices, external specific expert resources and public or private agencies.
- (f) That the committee embrace openness, collaboration, accountability, and transparency.
- (g) The review will be expansive enough to consider overall vision and overall management framework for the forest.

MEMBERSHIP

The FAC shall consist of at least 7, but not more than 13 voting members, including the Council member appointed as FAC Chair.

Membership may include one representative from each of the following organizations and professions, , unless otherwise stated:

- (a) Up to three (3) Professional Foresters;
- (b) A Professional Biologist;

- (c) A member at large representing the Cowichan Trails Stewardship Society; and,
- (d) Up to two (2) members at large who are residents of the Municipality based on their specific knowledge or interest in forestry matters.

APPOINTMENT AND TERM

Members shall be appointed by resolution of Council, except for the Cowichan Trails Stewardship Society who shall notify the Staff Liaison of the member that they have appointed to represent them on the FAC.

The term for all members, with the exception of the Chair, shall coincide with the term of Council. The Chair shall be appointed for the term as appointed by Council.

STAFF SUPPORT

The Municipal Forester serves as the Staff Liaison to the Committee and will notify Council in writing of any Cowichan Trails Stewardship Society representative changes.

MEETINGS AND REPORTING TO COUNCIL

The Forestry Advisory Committee shall meet at the call of the Chair.

The procedures for meeting conduct and reporting back to Council are set out in the [Council and Committee Procedure Bylaw](#) and the [Council Advisory Body Policy](#).