

October 26, 2023
Comox Valley, BC
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Action4Canada is not welcome in K'ómoks Territory. Events that promote hate, division, and racism have no place in our community.

K'ómoks First Nation stands firmly against any form of racism, hate, and discrimination within our community. It has come to our attention that two events featuring Ms. Tanya Gaw and her organization, Action4Canada, are raising significant concerns. One event is scheduled at the Bay Community Church in Comox tonight on October 26, and another at Living Waters Fellowship Church in Black Creek on October 27.

We vehemently denounce any actions that perpetuate ideologies rooted in hatred, division, and prejudice. In the spirit of solidarity, we join our voices with the Tseshaht First Nation Elected Chief and Council and ḥawíih̓ (Hereditary Chiefs), municipal governments, and community members who have taken a principled stance against these events and the divisive ideologies they promote. Racism and hate have no place in our community. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that our territory remains a welcoming, inclusive, and safe place for all.

We are compelled to acknowledge that local elected officials and members of the greater community have shared their concerns with one of the churches, but the church has chosen to move forward in hosting this event. We respect the principles of freedom of expression and differing perspectives. However, we firmly believe it is crucial for all members of our community to critically evaluate the content and messages propagated by events like these. Events promoting hate, division, and racism should never find a foothold within our communities.

It is deeply disheartening to witness the promotion of divisive beliefs and racism, as exemplified by Ms. Gaw's recent social media statements. On October 12, Ms. Gaw posted "It's time to pull the plug and end the charade of the Truth and Reconciliation witch hunt. The graves are empty and indigenous violence is their own doing!" on X (formerly known as Twitter). We stand firm with declaring that Ms. Gaw and her organization, Action4Canada, are not welcome in our territory, which encompasses the Comox Valley.

Our community, like every Indigenous community in this country, has endured the painful legacy of residential schools, with living members who attended both residential and day school, and families who continue to be impacted by these systems to this day. Denial of the realities of residential schools and the unmarked graves that have come to light is not only offensive but perpetuates the cycle of pain and trauma.

We align ourselves with the Tseshaht First Nation and all those who have called upon our local governments, businesses, and community members to take an unwavering stance against hate and racism. Racism is an affliction that continues to impact our Nation and communities, and we are not immune to its presence. However, we believe that those who support prejudice and divisive views represent a local minority. The vast majority of our community in the Comox Valley stands united against bigotry of any kind.

We stand with our neighbours and allies in the fight against racism, and we stand together in unity and love.

Respectfully,
K'ómoks Elected Chief & Council

Ken Price, Elected Chief Councillor
Coral Mackay, Elected Councillor
Candace Newman, Elected Councillor
Susan Savoie, Elected Councillor

From: Village of Cumberland
Subject: FW: CVRD News: CVRD Stands Behind Diversity, Accessibility and Inclusivity Driver

From: Communications <Communications@comoxvalleyrd.ca>
Sent: Friday, October 27, 2023 12:48 PM
To: Communications <Communications@comoxvalleyrd.ca>
Subject: CVRD News: CVRD Stands Behind Diversity, Accessibility and Inclusivity Driver

Good afternoon,
Please see the below news release regarding the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) standing behind diversity, accessibility and inclusivity driver supporting K'ómoks First Nation in the firm stand against any form of racism, hate, and discrimination within our community.

[CVRD News: CVRD Stands Behind Diversity, Accessibility and Inclusivity Driver](#)

All media inquiries and questions can directed to CVRD Board Chair Jesse Ketler at 250-898-9085.

CVRD Communications

770 Harmston Avenue, Courtenay, BC V9N 0G8
Tel: 250-334-6000

The CVRD respectfully acknowledges the land on which it operates is on the unceded traditional territory of the K'ómoks First Nation, the traditional keepers of this land.

CVRD Stands Behind Diversity, Accessibility and Inclusivity Driver

October 27, 2023

The Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) Board supports K'ómoks First Nation in the firm stand against any form of racism, hate, and discrimination within our community.

“As a Board, we recently adopted a fifth strategic driver dedicated towards accessibility, diversity and inclusivity within our community. We strongly discourage any actions that continue growing hatred, division, and prejudice within our region,” explains Chair Jesse Ketler. “We are a small community filled with diversity and we need to respect each other, promote kindness, and continue to keep our community a welcoming, safe place for everyone.”

The Board is committed to reconciliation and relationship building with Indigenous Peoples and specifically K'ómoks First Nation. By working with K'ómoks First Nation with dedication towards learning, honesty, openness and compassion we strive to demonstrate respect and appreciation for the tragic loss of so many innocent lives within residential schools. The CVRD recognizes the work of reconciliation is the responsibility of all levels of government and segments of Canadian society.

“We are grateful to K'ómoks First Nation for patiently working with us, providing us with guidance and essential learnings,” explains Chair Ketler. “We are hopeful that through our work together we can influence change in our community and we are honoured to be on this journey together.”

The Comox Valley Regional District is a partnership of three electoral areas and three municipalities operating on the unceded traditional territory of the K'ómoks First Nation, the traditional keepers of the land. The members of the regional district work collaboratively on providing sustainable services for the benefit of the diverse urban and rural areas of the Comox Valley.

- 30 -

Media Contact:

Jesse Ketler, CVRD Board Chair
250-898-9085