

Top 3 Issues Unprompted

These are the raw answers to the survey question: What do you think are the three most pressing issues facing local government? References to individuals have been removed. Please excuse formatting – this is how it came out!

raising weir, reduce carbon footprint in all ways (clean energy, bilaw on logging, development only on disturbed lands, etc), creating local green jobs

Water storage, food security, climate change.

"Sustainable Water Governance

Growth

Ecological Decay"

1. Water 2. Water storage 3. Water for wildlife and the eco system.

Sub-regional protectionism within the CVRD, Logging practices not under local control (Province not interested in sustainable logging practices),

Lack of support from Provincial Government in RAR law enforcement

local control of water, improving native-non-native relationships, protecting air

Water protection and usage, Fracking and oil invasion and Keeping the land fertile and available to sustain ourselves well into the future.

green house gas reduction, forestland restoration and protection, sustainable food production

climate change, habitat protection, establish a set of ecological sustainability indicators

"1. Promoting and facilitating a transition away from fossil fuel use.

2. Reducing use of non-renewable resources.

3. Working towards the management of watersheds, forests, agricultural soils and other renewable or sustainable resources as a commons under local authority."

"Climate change

Ecological degradation (e.g. new dike)

Social degradation (lack of affordable housing)"

Education, Health, and Transportation

Climate change, 1st nations, water

"1 Lack of competence of elected councillors

2 Protecting Cowichan River watershed

3 Keeping tax increases under control"

The whole environment of the Valley (protecting those parks already in place as well) and BC, Minimizing spreading development, especially those that clean the landscape of every tree; rapid transit between communities.

changing attitudes, creating feasible solutions to many issues,

"Loss of ALR land, Protecting the wild fish and rivers, water use restrictions during drought.

Working together with First Nations communities, and improving relationships and always consulting... please, stop building on sacred sites."

"1. We need to curtail rural sprawl as this would assist to reduce GHGs, negative impacts on the natural environment, forest lands and ALR lands, etc. and help to create more livable, walkable and complete communities.

2. We need more collaboration between the CVRD and member municipalities. It's too decisive and electoral area directors are focused on their own electoral area without a broader vision for the whole region.

3. We need a local water authority for the Cowichan watershed."

Amalgamation, inappropriate spending habits, lengthy (and therefore costly) processes.

Watershed protection, creating area- appropriate good jobs, affordable housing

Facilitating healthy, organic, local food and medicinal plant production. Lower housing costs. Helping to create a more innovative economy that fosters jobs that are environmentally friendly.

"Water conservation; educating the public and insisting the entire population get involved in the matter of waste management -- from preschool to elder; reducing the number of cars on the road (by improving public transit, walking paths, car share, local shopping etc.)

How can you limit this to 3? Another priority is to reduce the number of governing bodies in the Cowichan Valley. "

"1) Amalgamation - to divert tax money from bureaucracy to much needed programs

2) Environmental care - Stewardship of our water, air and land

3) Families - sustainable jobs, housing, education, childcare"

I believe 1. Maintain healthy water supply focusing on conservation and clean practices. 2. Air quality should be a priority. 3. Protect existing farm land and forests.

Watershed, openness in financing and governance, land use

economic development for jobs for young and underemployed people, sustainable growth management, improvement of local government relationships

"1.)The tax rate for residential home owners in North Cowichan is ridiculously high, and Catalyst/Crofton Mill should have their tax rate returned to its historic rate before their threat of closing their mill. Tax payers shouldn't be subsidizing Catalyst, and buffering the risk for Catalyst shareholders!!! Deal with this inconvenient reality, and make living in North Cowichan affordable.

2.) Stop the intensification and overdevelopment of the Cowichan region: Our watershed cannot reliably handle the current demand from the existing aquifers, and approving a few large developments or many small development projects siphons off the prospect of a sustainable, healthy community future.

3.) Relationship mending with local tribes: Meaningful, respectful decision-making that includes First Nations values in land-use decisions, including respecting and protecting culturally sensitive sites from commercial and residential activities, and restoring the desecrated sites in consultation with the tribes. "

"drinking water - crackdown on restriction abusers - user fees
air quality - backyard burning of any sort eliminated
preserving rural environment - limiting urban commercial sprawl"
"Environment:
First Nations collaboration
water
reduction of emissions
"

"Voters lack of trust in their government (at all levels).
A lack of good communication (on the issues) between govt. and citizens.

"

"1. availability of clean water
2. encourage the growing of more local food
3. reduce the use of fossil fuels"
Environmental protection: finding more green jobs

"Water conservation in the Cowichan and also in the Koksilah watersheds
Consistency in recycling - eg why so difficult now to deal with glass and plastic bags?
Creation of more parkland in natural areas and also acquiring land at the Dinsdale Dyke/Lachmanetz Road walk for a parking area and nature interpretation area. No more trailer park at this location - it's too valuable for nature close to the estuaries.
Also help in joining the waters of the Cowichan Estuary with the waters of the Koksilah Estuary so that there is better habitat for young Salmonids to thrive."

"1) raising taxes from corporations who plead poverty and threaten to close down and leave the area thus creating unemployment if they are pressed for their full share of taxes.

2) taking environmental issues seriously and putting them above the self-interest of individuals

3) considering the social structure of the region and making changes which reflect social justice principles"

Amalgamation, Water management and maintaining taxes
water pollution dumping of waste from other areas

Amalgamation, water, the Cowichan River. Not necessarily in that order!

(1) Creating Infrastructure And Events That Increase Entregens And Association Between People Of All Ages, Interests And Ethnicities While Seeking Their Corroboration And Consultation. (2) Improving The Social Environment And Incorporation Of The Natural Beauty And Unique Cultural Resources Of The Region Into Accessible And Usable Institutions. (3) Cleaning Up And Safeguarding The Environment And Implementing A Charter Of Legitimate Usage And Plans To Steward The Development Of Community Expansion And Consolidation, While Sussing Out Economic Propositions That Incorporate All Of The Above.

The need for job creation, federal government cut backs in many department, growth and the impact on the environment

Stopping Raw log exports Keep The Lumber Local(in B.C.) to be remanufactured. Getting a train that actually runs on a proper work schedule for people commuting to work. Holding all politicians accountable to their actions and to thier constituents. A honest government is a good government.

Water, forest land management, poverty on First Nations Land

Water,air,population,

"keeping land taxes affordable for the poor

clean water supply

noise by-law enforcement"

"Rolling back privatisation of resources and services

Poverty amelioration through publicly funded housing,daycare and support for living wage policies for public and private employees

Increased democratic approaches to decision making- less representative government,more participatory government

"

"1) Improved water storage on Cowichan Lake

2) Improved forest management practices in the watershed

3) Coordination of local governments with a plan for eventual amalgamation."

Environment....Environment....environment!!!

". Preservation of agricultural land

.Protection of all fresh water sources

.Protection against unlimited exploration, extraction and development of non-renewable resource projects.

"

Mitigation and elimination of greenhouse gas emissions; food security; water resources and the ensuring of community decision-making for their surrounding forest lands.

Environmental issues.

" maintaining our watersheds.

managing out of control salaries and over zealous growth of municipal employees.

amalgamating communities in order to streamline development and balance"

"1. No toxic dirt dumping in Shawnigan Lake watershed.

2. Fair and open relations with our first nations neighbours.

3. Maintain the ALR and the rural, farming environment of the Cowichan Valley."

Working with First Nations and non-First Nations interest groups in a collaborative,. Affordable housing and local food production are also consultative method on watersheds, rivers and restoration of estuaries which of course includes no pipelines and no oiltankers- the BC coast has 70 foot waves for often 6 hours running in the proposed tankers area. Affordable housing and local food production are also important because our future depends on well nourished children during their school years. They will make future decisions that effect us.

"poverty, not mostly in government control, but most important issue for our community as a whole and needs work with other governments partnership with health authority and ministry of health regarding end of life care farmland preservation"

Water quality and quantity; consultation with First Nations and Amalgamation

"1. Reducing their horrendous costs. Not just a freeze but actual cut backs.

2. Impose strict guidelines for pollution, water usages, and energy usage on the Crofton Mill. Based of world best practices.

3. Do not allow any more farm land to be converted to any other use. How will we feed ourselves ?"

"* Sustainable economic development -- better paying jobs that rely on a clean and healthy environment

* More walk-able communities -- getting people out of their cars

* Water supply -- reduced consumption, better water quality protection"

"1. Water Protection - Agricultural and residential water use should trump any industrial use

2. Forestry land use control - we need to get control of our watersheds out of private for profit over people stakeholders. Just because a parcel of land was logged DOES NOT mean it should be covered in concrete asphalt and houses.

3. Amalgamation - We need a municipality set up to represent Mill Bay, Cobble Hill and Shawnigan Lake. We have a large population in these areas and need a local governing body to represent our citizen's interests."

In Cowichan municipalities, water conservation is the greatest issue

"1. Clean energy

2. Urban sprawl"

Air pollution, water pollution & levels, environmental issues need to be top priority for the land & the peopleâ€¦ not for government greed.

"- strategic planning

- environmental sustainability

- social infrastructure"

"Issues with the senior governments.

Water in all its uses

Reducing carbon emissions "

"Cowichan river water levels

loss of wetlands

earthquake awareness"

"Water conservation and planning.

Getting back to the previous method of recycling and refuse collection before MMBC took it over.

Looking and planning what is best for the community as a whole (not just a specific area) and working together to accomplish this."

Accountability/transparency, climate change/transition to green economy and voter engagement

"Development sprawl - keep green spaces!

Protecting agricultural lands & encouraging farms

Integrating affordable renewable energy alternative programs"

Water management, recycling, etc. bring jobs to the valley

"Urban sprawl

Water and energy conservation

Representing constituents not developers

"

"1. To learn methods of communication/discussion that are not based on taking a side, but rather envisioning a goal and working towards it.

2. Population growth and the stress it puts on water, land use and traffic.

3. To welcome the Cowichan Peoples into the conversation of how to discuss, how to look at water issues, how to speak with one voice."

"raising the level of Cowichan lake
cutting frills and holding property taxes at a reasonable level

Stop the wasting of taxpayers money on expensive new not needed projects and big raises for the piggies at the trough"

Environmental issues including curtailing urban sprawl and maintaining farmland, better public transit system, and high quality early childhood education.

"Sustainable Water Resource
Sustainable farm land/watersheds
Economic Development"

"Downloading from senior government. The environment and climate change.
Sustainable, economic development."

Water and Air control. Wise choices in preserving farm and garden lands, which may prevent some housing developments.

"Wages that are out of control.

Too many employees.

Development fees and charges that do not relate to real costs. A standard serviced lot has to be sold for \$150,000 to make any money where as if the development fees and charges were realistic the same lot could sell for up to \$30,000 less! How's that for moving towards affordable housing?"

LAND AND WATER USE/ PLANS FOR SUSTAINABILITY, VISION AND PLAN FOR CREATING A PROSPEROUS AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY (JOBS, DEFINING THE CHARACTER AND STRENGTHS AND PROMOTING), POLICY RE: YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN THE COMMUNITY (GIVING VALUE, PURPOSE AND CONNECTION TO OTHER COMMUNITY MEMBERS)

"Improving Traffic Flow on the Highway through The Valley!!

The Water Shed Issue.

Improving Transit

"

Notting

Climate change, economic development, food production

water, land and air the only element left is fire but we have had plenty of that this season LOL

"1. Water

2. Greenhouse gases

3. Urban sprawl"

"1. Accountability & listening to the people

2. Water conservation

3. Protection of farmland & forests"

--preservation of rural land and forest-
--water management in the river and water table
--affordable housing shortage"

I personally am concerned about back yard burning as to how it adds to the background levels of air pollution particularly in the Spring. I think the public needs to be educated on how people including children with asthma and other immunological health issues are impacted by smoke.

"Water conservation
Pollution from big farms
The Duncan Crawl

"

Local jobs (economy), water, environmental ie LNG pipeline.

"Climate change

Water

Sustainable food production"

"Our water needs to be raised

Tourism needs a boost

Urbanization needs to be stopped"

"Ecologically based resource management

Administrative competence

Following through on things "

"Tax pressure combined with cost of living increases make decisions difficult and something always goes wanting.

the proposed gravel pit near Valleyview and the process that was followed to get it approved to this stage. - and concerns re the operating hours that will be permitted.

economic opportunities for our youth - particularly tribes kids, but all folk under 30 need better paying, secure employment here at home. what can be done to foster the development of quality employers who offer decent work conditions and who contribute to the good of the valley?"

"Budget juggling

Infrastructure

local control of issues"

"Environment

Not involving First Nations in decision making

Job creation"

Council accountability, limiting bureaucratic expansion, evolution of 'pet projects' and most of all imposing strict financial controls and a reduction in out of control tax increases!

protecting and sustaining our watershed, forests and agricultural lands; developing local resilience in the face of accelerating climate destabilization; and working in a respectful equal partnership with Cowichan Tribes and other local First Nations.

water, forestry, farm land

Over spending, tax increases, bloated salaries, benefits, and pensions for public employees

This survey implies endorsement of various activities which are responsibilities downloaded from higher levels of government. They should focus instead on making more efficient use of existing resources, curb their scope and ambition, and stop increasing property taxes and other levies, and end the growing bureaucracy and moves towards urban services for all and continuing development at the cost of rural residents.

The sudden increase to transit costs is unacceptable when Greyhound and their subsidiary are the only providers, and the services provided do not cater to all areas. Stick to the basics and don't take on anything more beyond being a conduit for local opinion to other levels of government. There are too many politicians at all levels and we do not need amalgamation or further growth of the CVRD.

"climate change

social change

financial responsibility"

"* ageing infrastructure

* climate change adaptation

* sufficient tax revenue to address the above two issues"

"1. Lack of local government innovation. Cowichan should be a provincial leader in many progressive areas such as projects like developing solar, wind energy for its citizens. Let's be the model for other communities.

2. Living ""with"" not ""beside"" our First Nations partners, and developing collaborative projects to the benefit of everyone.

3. Growing the tax base by encouraging ""friendly"" industry so that there are good paying jobs for families to reduce poverty and provide funds for innovation. "

"1. Climate Change

2. Local control of resources

3. Municipal Staff Wages"

"1. managing increasingly complex issues like climate change (severe winter storms, summer drought and invasive species) without the authority and the revenue flexibility.

2. staying true to longterm vision of sustainability - one that does not take us over the region's ecological carrying capacity (i.e., stopping growth and sprawl that destroys habitats and ecosystem services).

3. Engaging and partnering with the community to deliver services.

"

"1. Agenda 21

2. Centralization of Power

3. Corruption"

"- Watershed management

- Controlling urban development to create safe, healthy, supportive community; avoid uncontrolled, profit-driven urban growth (see Christopher Alexander's 'A Pattern Language', on human urban design.

- Protection of natural biosy"

"Water supply

protecting farm land

forests"

Sustainable water resources, forest practices, and energy development. First nations and local govt working together and resources for integrating youth into community planning and development of services to meet their needs.

"Supporting teachers for our future public education

Affordable housing for all"

Water, Air quality, and food sustainability

Only one biggy. The City of Duncan promotes recycling but due to administrative idiocy, collects garbage and recyclables from City receptacles and treats them both as garbage... even in the middle of our City Square and Farmers' Market. YUCK! WAKE-UP! How Neanderthal!

Water conservation, zero waste,

"High taxes

Environmental restructuring

No trust in politians"

protecting green spaces, air and water quality, and quality of life.

"Water issues (in cooperation with First Nations)

Promoting green initiatives, whether in job creation or recreation

Speaking out forcefully on bad ideas like pipelines, fracking, resource extraction that does not benefit the people or the planet

"

"local investment (eg, give priority to local contractors and providers for RFP's)

carbon emissions

water levels (current concern)"

The river, air quality and public transit and bike paths/sidewalks

"Pathological growth (usually called development)

Harnessing youthful energy toward useful purposes

Water conservation"

"--local control of watersheds

--promoting local high tech renewable energy projects with training programs to allow our youth local high tech skilled jobs so they dont have to move to Alberta

--bike trails, walking trails, any incentive to get people ou"

1. any and all activities which will have a positive impact on reduciing GHG and climate change.

"1) encouraging ""green"" businesses into Cowichan (solar, wind, biodiesel, organic farming) & economic diversity (like the film industryâ€¦ what's Film Cowichan if it still exists doing now?). Can't rely on Crofton mill only.

2) Lake Cowichan weir to store more water. Inventive to collect rainwater (rain barrels & re-roofing for non-tar roofs).

3) supporting the public school system & encouraging more community facilities be built for use by schools.

"

"Shawnigan Lake contaminated soil dump

Cowichan River

Water - in general - fresh water, that is"

water, waste management, taxes

Watershed protection. Farmland protection. Clean air. Sustainable future based in common sense and long-term vision.

climate change, water

Water, air pollution, planning

"Problems of too many local governments for relatively small population resulting in too much administration and a lower skill level for these administrators.

Urban sprawl. Need to develop in limited areas

Affordable low income housing and other benefits."

be water smart: reduce waste water & increase potential for clean waters.

"Preservation of undeveloped areas

Water management

Control of waste, including CO2"

affordable housing, water, and traffic on the highway

"1. Stop Shawnigan Lake and the rest of Cowichan Valley from being the toilet and garbage pail for other parts of B.C. Take legal action against property owners who truck and dump contaminated material onto their private land. Sue them.

2. Protect and Preserve water, watersheds, food security and agricultural land. Local control of our own water. Stop motor boats on Shawnigan Lake to protect drinking water quality. Let people get fit using paddles and oars.

3. Take a stand on the quality of life in this region and stand up for citizens who live here in the present and future, not for making money by trashing, destroying and polluting life in this region for money which will be spent and long-forgotten. What will remain is a contaminated legacy. Protect and preserve the lifestyle in this Region. Stand up for those of us who actually live here in a sustainable way."

supporting local business, attracting tourism, sustaining local culture

"1.) Educating public about issues and challenges

2.) Promoting a cohesive community

3.) Building Community self-sufficiency and resilience "

"Protecting our local environment including air quality, land and water usage.

Improving public transport and getting the rail service back up and improved

Don't waste so much money doing ""studies""

"

"sustainable resources

social and mental health support for youth

protection of resources"

Jobs, Ageing population, food supply

"Effective leadership

Listening to the public views.

Enacting on community needs."

Development, increasing bus services to connect to nanaimo, local control of pur watersheds.

"I think that an a amalgamation should take place.

Taxes in North Cowichan should be more realistic.

To many rules/regulations in North Cowichan for the small business owner to contend with and at high costs. Discourages business."

"water, environment, economics

"

land use, water use and balancing a diverse population

"1. urban containment, esp. protection of agriculture lands

preservation of Somenos marsh for example

2. affordable, safe housing for all

3. water supply/cowichan river"

"1. Taxes increasing with what seems like little consultation as to where this money is spent. Not being accountable for taxpayers contributions.

2. The differing needs of the people who live here, balancing them. Those that need jobs from the industries; those that don't want industry-- they moved here to get away from it; have retired so want different things in this stage of their life. The youth who move away to get better paying employment -- doesn't seem much here for them.

People move here for the overall beauty of the area --- but they come and clear cut their lots, thinking there are plenty of trees here anyway.

It's people thinking of their own needs rather than seeing the area as a whole. The valley is being destroyed piece meal---people wanting nature as long as it doesn't interfere with their personal needs for comfort, whether that be a new and faster road system or lake front property, ocean views, etc. It wouldn't be easy for a local government to deal with. We possibly need a bigger vision statement from the local government --- where should the borders (sprawl) end? Should there be consultation when considering going outside of these borders? How tall should our buildings be? Are we a no-fracking zone? Is it OK to clear cut your property?

3. Waste management and recycling. We need to come up with ways to better deal with our waste locally. Find ways to make it clean and affordable. It should not be going into the ocean and back woods.

"

"Engaging with community and FN to develop a strong consensus and direction for sustainable shared future. (Local Control)

Getting a solution to the low river levels

Climate change response planning and prep/ developement control/ limitation

"

"Accountability regarding capital projects

More efficient delivery of services

Openness/transparency/consultation"

containing urban sprawl, protecting air and water quality, managing transportation

Earth, air, water

"governance, ie., amalgamation

land management

protection of agricultural capacity and food security"

"protecting and increasing farmland for the growth of local farming

jobs for the young people in our district

the protection of clean water and our waterways for healthy aquatic life and the use of clean and safe water for our families"

1.Land use.Contain urban sprawl,especially along TCH. Protect ALR and all agricultural land ,from non-farming developments such as golf courses and sub-division . 2.Protect and enhance fresh water resources. 3.Planning services for certain population increase .

"1. Development and implementation of contemporary policies governing land use planning and development. ""Anything goes"" , is not the way to build a community in which people want to live.

2. consideration of the impact of the positive professional economic development. The lack of an effective downtown business zone is unfortunate.

3. Election of individuals who are qualified to make the decisions that will be required to enhance the quality of life in the Cowichan. "

"Water storage Capacity

Garbage collection,"

"1. getting the weir raised (with a more stable water supply we can do so much more in this valley)

2. there is absolutely no supports for the arts in this valley! It's sustainable quality jobs that culturally enhances a community in endless ways.

3. protecting our forests!!!

All the issues mentioned are important. The most pressing is our environment and all that is connected - it's all connected!"

"Efficient use of existing personnel and resources.

Protection of the environment.

Long range planning with input and much collaboration with community members."

"

succumbing to powerful Corporate business interest/pressure

succumbing to Developer interests/pressure

distruction of environment as result of above"

Any elected officials, in this country, are given a "carte blanche" to do what ever they want for 4 years. These assumptions (your survey) are only valid if we have accountable representatives. Keep up the good work!

water, land preservation, cooperation

"1 Protecting the watershed for the long term. Limit logging, commercial and agric activities in the watershed.

2 Sustainable living goals and support for initiatives. Eg, Alternative energy, smaller and more efficient homes, less sprawl, ecological planning.

3 Shared long-term land and social planning with First Nations to harmonize sustainable land use, traditional land relationships and common goals for the future development and health of the community."

"Reduction of administrative government costs through amalgamation.

Associated reduction of property taxes.

Accountability to citizens through consultation before spending taxpayers money. "

"1. Establishing water security. Education to reduce water wastage, insisting on rainwater collection on new construction.

2. Doing whatever you can to pressure provincial and federal governments to be HONEST AND TRULY ACCOUNTABLE to their citizens. Everyone will benefit from this.

3. Dealing with noise. The effects of excessive noise on peoples' health are greatly underestimated.

3. "

water, affordable farmland, affordable housing

"1.The current system of governance- e.g. the CVRD - board is not working. It seems to be run by employees, and not by the elected officials.

The power has to go back to the elected.

2. Protection of water resources must be absolute. Outside companies such as Nestle and PepsiCo for example must not be allowed to take our water under any premise.

3. The road through Duncan must be changed. Too much exhaust from idling vehicles waiting for red lights is poisoning our valley. Surely some computer system can be installed to permit a better flow of traffic. Another way, but not a good one, is to restrict left hand turns during morning and afternoon rush hours."

"1. better local accountability and transparency;

2. keep taxes down - a lot of us are struggling

3. bad development strategies - try to keep it local, sustainable and appropriate to our communities. "

"SAVING WATER IN COWICHAN LAKE (RAISING THE WEIR)

"

Water conservation and management in collaboration with the First Nations community, environmental protections and sustainable energy initiatives at affordable prices for all, and sustainable jobs. My fourth is commuter train service.

Picking up the issues that are being dumped by Provincial and Federal governments. Environment, health and education.

"Holding taxes in line

Maintaining a safe and clean environment

Ensuring an adequate water supply"

Water , land , housing .

"Water protection and conservatiion

Environmental protection and preservation--air, water forest, farmland

Sustainable energy programs and infrastructures"

STOP PIPELINE.....CLEAN WATER.....OVER DEVELOPEMENT.....

watershed protection; reducing green house gasses by supporting alternative energy projects; protecting the undeveloped areas left.

Land development, transportation, apathy

Protecting water sources; protecting and preserving forests and local parks; local food production

"There belief that growth is the answer to their economic problems'

Water sustainability (See above) Even with our present population we still reached 3rd level water restriction in late july. Realise climate change is here and the situation will not get easier into the future

Protect our farmland. We likely will not be able to rely on California.

"

"Water sustainability

Protection of farm land

Resources for low income families, such as affordable daycare and housing "

". Protecting the Cowichan River

. Protecting the Shawnigan Lake watershed from contamination

. Protecting local youth and women from violence"

"1) Affordability - N Cow/CVRD spending must be controlled

2) Integration of Aboriginal people into our economy/society

3) Environment/Quality of Life - e.g. Cow River and aquifer levels, highway bypass, bylaw enforcement"

"fair and reasonable property taxes while providing basic services

understand and explain the recognized /understood effects of climate change on local community

protection of water supply, including potential climate change factors

"

"1. Protection of fresh water supplies for future generations

2. The lack of good paying sustainable jobs in the valley, many people here are unemployed or underemployed.

3. Loss of natural habitat. One of our neighbours just pulled up every piece of natural vegetation on his property. Why cant we have local bylaws asking residents to preserve a minimum of 25% of each property to indigenus vegetation to preserve our biodiversity of plants, insects, birds, small animals and reptiles. Why do people move here and destroy every green thing before replacing them with foreign plant species that may or may not preserve the natural flora and fauna. "

water availability, sustainable forest practices, ocean preservation

"Holding developers accountable for all aspects of development....ie: roads, parks, water, drainage etc.
Staying strong on community plans and mandates when development is planned.
Creating a strong community plan and then adhering to it.
Find a solution to the TCH corridor...ie: bypass or elevated road for through traffic.

Stop drive through idling by banning drive throughs at local businesses.

"

More focus should be put on attracting new business and giving incentives to residents to shop local. Also give any and all assistance to local individuals who wish to start a new company.

- "1) Provide incentives and information to help residents create water reservoirs at home - its not just Cowichan Lake that needs to capture winter rains - we all should if we want to expand local food production.
- 2) Promote green building and fight for changes to BC building code to allow new techniques to be piloted, including grey-water systems.
- 3) Collaborate more with Cowichan Tribes. "

Watershed protection, Public transit, zero waste compliance
Regional coordination, watershed management, and lack of forward-looking jobs/businesses.
"Affordable Housing
Water rights/resources
AFFORDABLE HOUSING"
affordable housing...day care and transit
"1. Climate Change
2. Peak Oil
3. Food Security"
"Water
Affordable housing
Waste and recycling"
Creating jobs, environment, water use.
Water management, keep land agricultural, support for small local and sustainable business.

"Impotence of local bylaws in the face of federal and provincial decision-making/regulations regarding land-use planning, contamination of water (including by farmers), environmental, wetland habitat and agricultural land protection.

Lack of incentive for progressive people to seek elected office.

Not enough public transit and we need commuter train service."

"Basic Infrastructure maintenance

Taxation in relation to local economy

Water/food/energy self sufficiency"

"Lack of funding from Province and Federal Governments means our schools suffer, our low income families are without child care.

Job creation means training centres and we need to change our thinking and allow incentives for green industries.

Need to take an active part in protecting our environment and also stop wasting money on study after study but then not proceeding after."

Protecting the Cowichan River. Protecting the salmon. No Fracking.

water, air quality, salaries in line with norms,

"1) Provincial and Federal Government imposed roadblocks on sustainable Cowichan Lake water level management.

2) The lack of venture capital required to finance establishment of new business opportunities which would broaden the work force and bring Cowichan to that ""critical mass"" which sustains communities.

3) The ""in the old days"" attitude. The mills are NOT coming back. Lets turn our attention to new, clean and modern industries. Run of the river hydro, wood pellet production, fluidized bed biomass electrical generation. (Lake Cowichan is in a unique position, with foresight it could be energy self sufficient or even an energy exporter to the grid.) Court high tech companies to bring their operations to a high tech breeder mall and play up the recreational opportunities for their staff to unwind after a stressful work day. Open a telephone call centre etc."

Low income housing,water,food

Health care

"Downloading of costs from higher levels of government.

Growing revenue while enhancing community and environmental sustainability.

Lack of political will to truly embrace collaborative, cooperative planning practices and ensure the full implementation of the results of those processes (ie moving urban containment boundaries after the fact)"

"Cowichan River. But not necessarily raising the weir. We should also look at creating water retention in the forests so all the rain doesn't just run off.

ALR we need to protect ag land since the Province is dropping the ball.

Create more local economic sustainable development. Put the economic development commission money to more effective use."

"

1) engaging in climate change strategies. 2) ensuring the ecological integrity of local watersheds. 3) ensuring all development both current and proposed fits within ecologically defined limits."

"smart meters and other sources of RMF

water contamination and shortages

"

Taking care of the water, preventing fracking on Vancouver Island, preventing dumping of contaminated soils in our watersheds.

"- getting more young farmers on land

- protecting current farmers

- fix the grants in aid program that has become a source of funding for places like the sports plex. "

"Educating people to re-cycle re-use and return

Affordable housing and daycare

water preservation"

"We need to make Cowichan Lake a gay friendly community

We need to protect what little forest we have left

We need to support local businesses instead of buying everything at Wal-Mart"

"Protecting our water, forest, and preventing endangerment

Of the environment by fighting the pipeline and shipping of oil through sensitive coastal waters"

"Recycling/waste management (needs serious improvement)

Watershed protection

Accessible transit"

1) structuring the democratic process to support engagement, fair representation and transparency, (making initiatives like this accessible to everyone in the valley - language and info gathering strategies), 2) support small farms, including making it easier for multiple families to live and work them since financing and ownership is increasingly out of reach for single families - land use bylaws. 3) address the massive cultural gaps between groups in the valley - ingrained racist attitudes, wealth gaps, etc.

"Poverty and social inequity

Environmental protection

Need more parks and protected areas"

"Our watershed

Holding tight to rules and restrictions involving ALR

Our community should be an example of renewable energy

Encouraging people to get involved in new ways of farming, such as hemp farming. "

Protection of watersheds and the environment, economic development. and maintaining services while keeping taxes low.

"1)The conflict between environment (our future) and economic(also our future) Finding a different path than we have jumped into in the past half century or so needs to happen.

2) how to fund the forward moving changes without crippling local people and businesses with ever increasing tax demand

3) Efficient communication and support between the different areas, all of whom have unique characteristics and energies to offer.

"

"-University Village Local Area Plan use and it's effects on the Somenos Marsh

-Creating a sustainable economy (employment, local business, keeping families in this area)

-Protecting water ways and drinking water (raising the weir, protecting fish habitat"

Maintaining our River and what's in it, bettering our relationship with the Coast Salish people in the Cowichan Valley, and getting more local control of what happens to our water, land and trees. It seems like the same 4-5 people make the decisions in this town and it's not fair-people like Al Sebring and John Koury need to stop using Cowichan as their own personal monopoly board-they need to be reminded that they drink water, breathe air and eat too-

Water water water,

Food security, energy efficiency, properly caring for the elderly

"To darn much tax's on home owners!

Water and Land miss use.

more help for seniors as they are getting forgotten!"

"Fracking

Northern Pipeline

GMOs"

accountability, transparency, stop in-camera meetings

water, land and education

"1. short term and long term water supply and management in the context of climate change

2. Timber harvest relative to water supply for the region

3. food production and self sufficiency including pollinator conservation etc"

I don't know. I don't know enough about the issues.

Water use, housing, job creation

affordability of living here, water issues, and keeping wages of their top earners in line

"1. funding for higher government mandates

2. aging infrastructure

3. negative citizens who can't be bothered to become informed"

Local control of watershed, sustainable development, preservation of rural environment

"Water concerns in the Cowichan Watershed

Sustainable economic development in the region

Getting local FNs involved and participating in the point above"

"Downloading from provincial government - need a social policy framework (Board Voice of BC)

Insertion of federal and provincial political agendas into municipal politics

Lack of affordable housing "

Down loading of. Responsibilities without proper funding.Lack of power to build social housing Lack of public interest in local govt.

"Funding

Retreat of both Prov. and Fed. Gov'ts from traditional areas of responsibility

Relations with First Nations"

"1 Protection of existing water rights and improving reservoir retention in the light of past years serious drought situation...SUSTAINABILITY..

2. Protecting the existing ALR rights and planning for future developments that will not decrease the necessary agricultural base which we see today.....SUSTAINABILITY...

3. Realizing that we cannot continue our existing ...urban sprawl; automobile /oil companies hegemony; decreasing air purity and our constant focus on a petroleumbased culture to the exclusion of having sets of Positive Plans for Sustainability which look realistically toward a new way of seeing and encouraging local development ; but with a vision to encourage solar/ electric/ tighter urban development where citizens are within shorter distances from necessary urban establishments ; malls, recreation and natural park settings; education; businesses etc. [a plugin here for a serious redevelopment of the existing rail line which could carry freight again and passenger services that compliment an existing nexus of bus routes / bicycle routes / etc. "

Air quality. Infrastructure renewal. Affordable housing.

"Keeping property taxes in line with what people can afford.

A lot of these issues are out of the jurisdiction of local governments.

Water is important, but then again this has to be financed by provincial and fed. governments. Local government cannot possible afford this. "

"1. working on a transition away from the fossil fuel economy

2. protecting water, and air quality

3. protecting and encouraging local agriculture in an environmentally sustainable way."

They fight with one another instead of working together. We don't need all these municipalities, one would be enough. It seems in North Cowichan there is a huge focus on development rather than natural preservation and environmental protection, which is just wrong. Growth isn't necessarily good. They need to think of future generations.

"Working with other local governments including First Nations council

Meaningful inclusion of community members

Accountability and follow through so trusting relationships can be built"

Dumping of toxic materials into cowichan watersheds...building up the Cowichan weir and equally involving all local groups not just the mill....creating and employing people in more clean energies productions.

"1. Water

2. Air quality

3. Dumping of soil from other areas."

"Environment

Health Care

Education"

"lowering property taxes;

redirecting the highway traffic away/around the city of Duncan

pushing our local governments to hold oil/gas/mining/forestry industries environmentally accountable."

"sustaining water in rivers to support fish and associated wildlife

dealing with urban sprawl

ensuring nature is not being destroyed (touches on several issues)"

Sustaineability of the Cowichan river and all the animals that depend on it, the ongoing destruction of our forest here on the island and surrounding gulf islands, and improving our healthcare system

"To work more closely with Cowichan Tribes (Chief, Band Manager and Council). The left hand should know what the right is doing.

Job creation, too many of our young people have to move away to work.

More affordable daycare for parents with lower paying jobs and/or single parents."

The primary purpose of any government is to protect life and property, where LIFE includes health, education and opportunities, and PROPERTY includes physical assets, the environment and the value systems of the populace.

- "1. The downloading of services from federal and provincial governments
2. Finding enough revenue to pay for everything
3. Low participation among eligible voters"

"-water

-fossil fuels

-food production"

Food security, water management, climate change.

"

Watershed protection

Forest and wildlife preservation

Pipeline curtailment while working with First Nations"

" economic dev and its connection to affordable high quality childcare

climate action including water issues and food production

communication with first nations"

Shrinking tax base, aging infrastructure, lack of value added industry

"water (eg weir control)

land use (eg toxic dump site in Shawnigan)

integration of First Nations' issues with local gov't issues"

"Sustainable water supply

Moving toward renewable energy

Transportation corridor"

"air, water and land contamination.

social services i.e., health care, schools, homelessness, poverty

climate change"

Clean water, clean air and environmental protection

"Working together to facilitate and support better approaches to environmental sustainability; social housing; and etc

Working with First Nations communities

Developing new and creative alternatives to 'free market capitalism."

#NAME?

"1. Contaminated soil in Shawnigan

2. Local control of the Cowichan River

3. Control costs: reign in very high salaries of staff, no more roundabouts in silly places, extravagant new municipal buildings"

Not sure

"Protecting our vulnerable environment:

1. WATER

2. LAND

3. AIR

Yes, many aspects of such protection come under the jurisdiction of provincial & federal governments but it is essential that ""small"" governments make a stand."

sustainable growth, commitment to sustainable energy, water management (charge a lot more for water to force conservation)

"1) sustainable water and energy source

2) taxes- how do we find the balance of moving forward without super high taxes

3) building a strong economy to support social programs and the environment"

"using our local resources more wisely and with less waste.

less ""sprawl""

education on/ and financial assistance for sustainable energy alternatives"

"Transparency and Accountability

Long term planning to end urban sprawl

Water security"

"being open minded when addressing these vital issues and be willing to listen to opposing opinions and reasons.

take the survey results very seriously when considering the voice of us valley residents.

take action."

Protecting our clean free water from industry pollution and fracking in future.#2 protect our local old growth forests from being devastated.#3 protect our farmlands from being excluded from A.L.R. for other industrial purposes such as gravel removal etc. etc. amen.

"1.money

2.long term vision and planning

3. Right Will"

"Protecting the Cowichan River water supply and salmon

Preserving ALR land and its appropriate uses

Limiting urban sprawl

"

"Protecting our water quality and quantity.

How to educate the public about issues surrounding public responsibility to their community and develop a local voting or referendum system for every issue that involves the interests of the public or public funds.

How to legally relinquish making decisions for the public, thereby removing temptation to dictate.

"

1)Protecting our environment on every level.2) make better use of rail service to and from Victoria.3) develop a strong socio-economic community

"Protecting our watershed and raising the water level of Lake Cowichan to ensure safe passage for our spawning salmon.

Protecting our farmlands and what to do in this time of climate change."

Consultation and consensus. Credibility with public regarding the use of our tax dollars, the inability to be included in the decision making process of the Provincial Government and Federal Government.

Money to do any of the things listed here in the survey. It's not feasible financially and the fact that many of the questions here relate to provincial and federal government levels not on the municipal level.

"climate change

transportation infrastructure

water conservation"

"Water supplies.air quality.a strong effort toward attracting tourists

To our area. CoÃ±certed strong effort to bringing ferry services into

The highway system. Investment in educating our children to be

Top level citizens because this will be Canada,s future strength."

"Reduce carbon foot print (by promoting solar hot water & PC panels)

Protect our public school system(by working with teachers union

And Provincial government) the strike must stop!

A new Hospital should be build sooner than later.

"

"- Development and Support of local businesses

- Clear environmental protection laws

- Setting Up of a strong infrastructure or actively supporting tourism

"

"honest and open communication with constituents

clean water

clean energy"

raising the weir, clean local jobs, building resilience and sustainability/reducing carbon footprint, proper use of land/ban on developing on untouched land, tree cutting bilaw

"Watershed management

Development of policy regarding derelict boats and lives boards in local waters

Elimination of toxic farm fertile re as runoff into local waterways"

"Voting in people who can know when to stop consultation processes to get off their asses and make a decision - popular or not!

Finding ways to close the Catalyst Mill before it becomes more of a burden on taxpayers

increasing air quality by raising standards for toxic emissions from mills."

control and management of our environment, includes water, forest, farmland/urban sprawl

"job creation

environmental & water - protection

Federal & Provincial Gov't actions"

Protecting water and land; building resilient and cooperative communities; recognizing the challenge of climate change.

"there is only one issue that encompasses all the priority's and that is that local government needs to change there markers for how they decide

about new or old development. rather than basing things rather than having a narrow focus and one that final determinate being one about

whether it is it profitable or whether it is to expensive to do to one that looks at ALL aspects of a situation and uses a different value sysytem

..taking a wholistic approach and looking at all aspects (frankly money should be the botom of the priority list).

1/ Is this project/plan/business going to benefit the community (and not just one or two wealthy people or company's)

2/ if we proceed who will this cause an undue hardship for or come at there expense

3/ what cost if any will this cause to our local environment...if there is a cost how does that get re-mediated?

"

Taxes. For seniors, especially. Property taxes in North Cowichan have nearly doubled in 8 yrs for seniors. Water. We need more education about how to conserve water. Energy. Solar power should be encouraged and our reliance on fossil fuels decreased substantially.

"1) The lack of a comprehensive regional development strategy to guide development decisions.

2) Need for sustainable and evergreen industries and jobs for the valley.

3) Responsibility to balance economic development with social and ecological values. "

"1 seriously considering amalgamation options

2 forming a consistent plan for the rights of boaters in the area

3 strengthening laws so that we never face again such disasters as logging the land above the Properties and on Chisholm Trail"

"Very poor air quality

water - needing to force Crofton mill to redo its water intake system- as it leaks very badly -& they are probably taking at least 2x the amt shown

amalgamation

"

Make CV a No-Fracking Zone, ALR and water-related issues.

"Meeting and surpassing GHG, recycling and garbage reduction goals

Upgrading 70-90 year old roads and infrastructure

Protection of water/ rivers/ aquifers"

"Preserving farmland

Encouraging renewable energy

Water quality. River and groundwater "

"I suppose the ones that stand out for me are:

the necessity of promoting the fullest possible participation of citizens in decision making, and the need to be accountable to those citizens;

the responsibility to protect local resources and habitat, and to be involved as significantly as possible in decisions and actions affecting those;

the responsibility to consider the short and long-term consequences of decisions, and to consider history and think of the future when approving or disapproving proposals and developments.

"

"Clean sustainable WATER on - local level: encourage restrictions through active education & participation; show leadership by example, education on what it means, collection & restriction, & disaster

- creating excellent relations with First Nations; with community & beyond

- waterways: inner passage

- area infrastructure: including density & congestion"

"Greed

Gluttony

Gas, oil pipes "

"I'm not involved in local government enough to know what their primary challenges are.

What I believe should be local government's focus is ground water protection, protecting farmland, and innovative business development. "

"1. water resources

2. sustainable development and protecting existing farm land

3. transit and bicycle paths"

This is a hard question to answer. Global warming is the most pressing issue facing all governments and nations. Environmental protection is also critical. The well-being of the people in our communities regarding food, housing, medical care, education, jobs and the hope of a meaningful future is important.

Pollution, selling our resources to other countries...we need to keep for our own use, creating jobs with career opportunity.

Carbon footprint reduction of local government carbon footprint reduction of residents, water protection,

"Achieving a sustainable human population level in accordance with resources available.

Satisfying humans that demand a better, cleaner, healthier environment to live in. "

"1. The common belief that capitalism/money/more stuff is all we need to be happy.

2. The disconnect between what, how much we consume to throw away and the degradation of our environment.

3. The fallacy that what we do doesn't matter OR

Water, air, land. "

"1) Business Development

2) Quality of Life for Residents i.e. clean air, protection of the environment

3) Transparency and Accountability"

housing, medical, education.

"Water protection, better water management

Developing sustainable living, in resources, in job creation, in housing

Pass laws and enforce the sell off of our island to foreign investors"

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"- Protecting our water and the environment

- A new model of economic development

- Affordable housing"

"Hmm, that's a hard one to answer because there are so many issues, but I would have to say:

1. Working toward more control of the Cowichan Watershed

2. Transparency and public consultation (or the lack thereof)

3. Shifting from fossil fuels to green infrastructure and energy use"

"1) Economic Development

2) Over-regulation

3) Unsustainable tax increases"

Maintaining low taxes

Jobs, Growth, Business Development

"creating jobs to enable young families to stay here

teaching and practicing good environmental choices

trying to keep everyone happy..good luck"

"Air quality from wood burning stoves

More opportunity to recycle at the curb - glass, styrofoam etc...

Curbside pickup opportunities for yard waste, pruning etc... For those people who do not have the ability to tote to the municipal depot."

"High Taxes

High Debt

Not listening to the people"

"1) Affordable housing, poverty & all issues that arise from these such as homelessness, domestic violence & mental health concerns.

2) Environmental concerns such as farmland protection logging, watershed protection & wildlife habitat.

3) Sustainable, secure & long term resources of local energy & food.

"

"1. Water. Safeguarding the watersheds and resources.

2. Becoming inclusive: more consultation with First Nations so the knowledge and culture is considered, and taken into account, before decisions are made.

3. Size of government and accountability. (It seems there are far too many councils and elected officials for the area. Perhaps amalgamation can help. Also, there needs to be a way to remove an elected official should the constituents decide they are not doing what they were elected to do.)"

"-sustainability

-self sufficiency

-climate change"

"Watershed management

Reducing vehicle use

Preventing sprawl"

Water issues, amalgamation, land preservation

Water, climate and reduction of public services that harm our children eg public education and health care.

"Lack of water.

Homelessness.

Trans Canada Highway in Duncan"

Accountability by politicians and bureaucrats, Rising taxes and costs, protection of natural resources,

water resources, agriculture and jobs

earth stewardship x 3

Amalgamation, water issues ie Cowichan river and the weir raising, and limiting urban sprawl

"Water

Waste Control and Dumping from other communities

Energy Saving "

"protecting the watersheds

stopping cosmetic pesticide use

banning gmos"

Educating our children, preserving clean water for community, creating a 'green' cowichan valley

"1. Debt held by North Cowichan and CVRD

2. Pay and benefits are too high for North Cowichan and CVRD staff

3. No new job creation forcing the youth to move to find well paying jobs and taxing the remaining citizens of the valley into the ground!!"

"Cutting internal waste and overlap then redirecting funds to sustainability for water, land and energy.

Bridging aboriginal governing bodies with local government for better use and development of resources and jobs.

Providing subsidies or tax breaks for citizens that are progressive about conservation: composting, rain barrels, mulching, solar projects, alternative transportation... etc."

grants for solar energy, affordable housing, bike to work opportunities, transit

"The engagement of youth in local government issues and maintaining their interest.

Merging the needs of Business, Environment and government and having the interest of the citizens as a to majority concern.

The development of long term goals that incorporate the concept of community development at a local level."

amalgamation, core funding for Cowichan Valley Hospice Society, garbage disposal for First Nations lands

Amalgamation, taxation, activism

"climate change controls

sustainable local employment

affordable, eco friendly, housing of \$100K and less for singles, families and seniors

"

"Developing work relationships with First Nations
Economic development
Affordable housing"

"Transparency#1
Rising Costs. #2
Parks & Rec #3"

Working closer with First Nations

stability in our School Board, working with our First Nations Band members, curb urban sprawl and cheap housing developments by developers
"Taxes.

North Cowichan General Municipal tax rate has increased by a factor of 2.34 times what it was in 2008. The CVRD by 1.31.

The CAO in North Cowichan is running the muni and not council as recently admitted to me by a member of council - ""we let it happen"".

Time for a wholesale change in council."

urban sprawl, water resource protection, localized economic development

"out of control costs and wages at North Cowichan

out of control property taxes and increases

spending way beyond our means, and taking on too much debt.

"

"Taxes---cost of local government

Government expenditure creep.

I note that not one of your questions relates to tax levels,efficiency."

"Stop raising Taxes

Live within our tax income. No more deficit spending

Promote sustainable industry."

"water

high cost of government"

"excessive cost of administration - CVRD and North Cowichan , reduce inside worker cost by 25% for a start

"

"1. Support for small business initiatives, especially year-round tourism and arts initiatives.

2. Discourage, through selective taxation, derelict and ""tax break"" properties.

3. Clean air initiatives including burning bans and low-emission woodstove requirements."

"Raising the Lake Cowichan weir!

Paving and upgrading Croftons' roads!

No buildings over 3 stories!"

"stopping urban sprawl

keeping taxes low

developing another means of income beside taxes"

"- water/environmental issues

- poverty issues

- creating jobs"

"1 High taxes for the services we get compared to other towns.

2 Wasting taxpayer money on developing an earthquake prone floodplain with a high water table (Somenos Marsh included), into a high density residential area. We should not put people's lives at risk.

3. Setting proper priorities: Why would we build a 2nd theatre and begin taxing for it before building a police station. Or why did we buy the curling club from private interests. Certainly, that money could have gone to a higher priority item

"

cohesive plan for the region -including infrastructure, water, land use

"Economic development

Consolidation of local government and government services

More accessible recycling eg reinstitute the area collection bins"

Ensuring strong education for students, since the BC government is determined on privatizing this service-which is a fundamental building block in our society.

"Promoting industry to build a larger tax base and provide employment.

Stop spending taxpayers money on needless roundabouts and other unnecessary projects.

Proper water management and storage."

"Recognition by local government that residential real estate taxes are not a boundless source of money for supporting ""pet"" projects.

Recognition that we may need the Crofton mill but the mill's impact on the watershed is enormous and far exceeds residential consumption of water. Residential reduction of water consumption by 25% would be equivalent to the mill's consumption measured in a matter of minutes.

As tax payers we have to recognize that local government is very inefficient and we have to be very careful about what projects are within their capacity and capability to undertake.

"

Sustainability in all facets of government, public and private life, business and recreation. Concentrate on making green energy a priority through building codes and legislation. Be more aggressive with outside entities who try to take advantage of our resources or our environment, including entities such as federal governments both domestic and foreign, corporations and any other private or public organization trying to benefit from us for the least possible cost.

"1) As we have seen this summer, protecting our water resources.

2) Forest and agricultural land protection

3) Air quality in the valley, reducing our emissions. "

"-Local water concerns

-Quality Child Care spaces

-Amalgamation between local governments/sharing of resources

"

"through traffic, particularly logging trucks, transport trucks, etc. should be rerouted away from Trans Canada Highway 1

Cowichan Sportsplex should be fully funded by local tax payers and NOT have a user charge

in town recycling facility for glass containers for those who cannot afford a vehicle to drive to these "

"1). Protecting our local water supply by gaining control over the Cowichan Lake Weir and protecting surrounding water sheds from excessive logging.

2). Work toward reducing and eliminating air, ground, and water pollution.

3). Work toward establishing the Cowichan Valley's local food supply for food security and economic gain. "

solid waste, preserving ALR, local watershed

"Water Shortage.

Highway #1 Bypass

Municipal employee wages "

"1.Raising the LC wier

2. Sustainable logging practices with local jobs, no exporting raw logs

3. Clean lake and river water

"

"Water protection

Agricultural land protection

low income housing"

I am a recent member of the community and therefore cannot reasonably respond to this question.

"1. The need to change harmful public behaviour through education, rather than by imposing by-laws.

2. Overall greater emphasis on developing imaginative educational and recreational initiatives.
3. An increased sense of TEAMWORK - working more collaboratively with First Nations, community groups, youth, business, and seniors."

Land sustainability, protecting our water, fish habitats and educating our youth and offering free recreational sites for youth eg. Centennial park is awesome for all ages.

- "1. recycling - North Cowichan is making it difficult to recycle. Not everyone can drive to Bing Creek.
2. Build high buildings an acceptable distance away from the ocean.
3. If ""big business"" comes in make sure they conform to the Island rules."

Lack off Employment in the area, businesses closing down, people leaving the area and land property values dropping

- "1. Affordable Housing
2. Lack of public trust
3. Infrastructure replacements"

combine north cowichan and Duncan as one unit

Protecting our environment (clean water, clean air, pristine forest and marshlands) Reducing Poverty (job creation, social programs, crime prevention) Maintaining good relations of the Cowichan tribes to work together to achieve goals set in reducing poverty and protecting the environment. Especially to work together to protect cowichan from current govts careless and irresponsible decisions concerning industry and environment and education.

"1. After reading about the crematorium that just won their commercial use appeal, and considering the on-going battle with SIA, it would seem to me that local gov't needs to find a way to have more autonomy and the jurisdiction and ability to enforce bylaws. Many a full review of all bylaws to ensure that they are enforceable and will hold up in a court of law?

2. Control of the water rights for Lake Cowichan. It is not right that the interests of a few waterfront Property owners supersedes those of the community when it comes to raising the water levels in preparation for drier times.

3. MMBC needs to be reevaluated. The recycling dumpsters need to be brought back -- perhaps in more public, well lit areas to deter vandalism -- with security cameras, if need be.. I hate to think of what the roadsides are going to look like this year after Christmas without the dumpsters, which is typically a time when the roadside totes AND dumpsters are overflowing. I also feel that there was no planning as to how to deal with items that are no longer accepted in the totes, such as glass and film plastic, which are now making their way into garbage collection. This was a serious step back for the sake of a ""for profit"", out-of-province company that is merely looking out for their own bottom line with no genuine concern for the true spirit of recycling in order to help the planet. "

1. overspending, 2. lack of attention to demands/desires of the electorate, 3. poor attitude toward concerns about environment, esp. re: development

Water access, environmental responsibility and delivering on commitments to our community.

"Climate change and its effects on the quality and cost of living so...

-Locally produced food will become that much more important as food from other places becomes more expensive and harder to get. Adjusting local zoning laws to create more small local farms would be a start. Almost like ALR lite...

-Creating local bylaws that foster the most efficient standard of buildings so less energy is used and needed. Long-term energy costs always outweigh immediate capital costs, and this will only get more expensive while our economy relies on fossil fuels as an energy and a commodity.

- Creating an economy based on local resources used locally so that the community is more resilient to events in the wider world."

Water, garbage, farmlands

"1) Attracting local good paying middle class Jobs

2) Maintaining a healthy and sustainable environment

3) Budgets and taxes"

A family that has owned a large chunk of land for over 50 years in Crofton has now been trying to sell it for development for about 20 years. You, the local government has stalled this until they lost an interested purchaser! Now you are making it difficult for this family to subdivide and sell off a portion of it to pay for studies you are demanding. This family has been paying large taxes on this property all these years. They have kept it out of the agricultural tax bracket all these years and paying the higher taxes. It is time to help this property finally be developed and let this family have peace knowing the property is dealt with before the last of them pass on.

"PLANNING- duplication because right hand doesn't know what the left is doing half the time.

Cut red tape--Business development stalled as paper work piles up!!

Make DECISIONS! i.e. Meadow Park sewer problem has dragged on for over thirty years!!"

"Compost recycling - city should provide compostable bags. They are the ones wanting us to participate, why should I be out the \$15 for the bags?

Dogs and thier lack of care on the reserve. Stricter penalties and easier access to remove animals clearly needing assistance due to abuse and neglect.

"

Land use issues. Infrastructure ageing Local taxes.

- "1. GET RID OF THE POISONOUS, POLLUTING, TOXIC PULP MILL WHICH IS CONTAMINATING OUR AIR AND SOIL AND CONSUMING OUR PRECIOUS WATER FROM THE COWICHAN RIVER.
2. OVERSEE THE MUNICIPAL BUDGETS AND CUT COSTS ON SUPERFLUOUS PROJECTS AND EXHORBITANT SALARIES TO NEW, LOWER BUDGET LEVELS, RATHER THAN INVENTING,"" MAKE WORK PROJECTS"" , TO INFLATE OR CONSUME PRESENT INFLATED BUDGET FIGURES.
3. WORK ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW HOSPITAL."

Threat of loss of agricultural land, transportation infrastructure, repairing psychological/emotional damage done to first peoples over generations.

Water, reduction of fossil fuels, affordability (jobs, housing, living costs)

High taxes due to spending on discretionary luxury items like the purchase of the curling club, building a second theatre, and taxes for the Island Rail that has no hope of getting the \$100 million more required from local taxpayers

"High municipal taxes.

Out of control spending and borrowing at the municipal level.

Out of control wages, benefits, and hiring."

- "1. Protecting all our watersheds
2. Responsible development only, that is truly ecologically sound
3. more walking/biking trails and arts/recreation for all ages and income levels"

Water management, youth violence, air quality

taxes, water & policing.

climate change, inadequate funding and tax resistance, true collaboration with FN governments.

"Developing small business to spread tax revenue.

Maintaining the freshness of the Lake and River

Helping youth to take part in supporting the local area."

"Our water!! The Cowichan river!!

More low income housing & affordable daycare
More parks & recreation"

"1. water

2. air quality

3. Transparency in our local government."

Education, Job Creation, Amalgamating Government Municipals

Water supply, economic development, controlling budgets

not sure

"1) Reducing size and cost of beaurocracy.

2) Work constructivley with builders and developers.

3) Support NGO services"

"Re tooling our infrastructure and housung for cimate change. Enforcing carbon output and educating our citizens about the necessity of doing so.

"

1. balancing economic growth with development, 2. protecting our natural environment and resources, 3. responsibly using its spending power to maximize positive outcomes

"To find a way to reduce the cost to the taxpayers for high civil servant wages.

To develop greener technology.

Be more accountable in every aspect of government business."

Reducing property taxes. Keeping, not developing public lands. Amalgamation we have too many kingdoms in this valley.

Cede rural areas to CVRD, and amalgamate the downtown areas of Duncan and North Cowichan. Split off the other separate communities such as Chemainus and Cow Bay as separate municipalities.

Climate change, helping people to get solar power, out of their cars and supporting local farmers and businesses.

More programs for youth and teens that are affordable. More opportunities for graduating students or drop out students. More support for non profit organizations.

Stop urban sprawl, encourage use of homes and buildings already in place, ensure adequate water supply by encouraging water conservation i.e. Rain water collection system and grey water recycling incentives and encourage solar power production.

Protecting our environment, since our local economy is hugely dependent on our surroundings here -- fertile farmland, clean water, clean air, beautiful landscapes, amazing birdlife, fish life, big trees, etc -- restaurants, tourism, etc etc. It all comes back to living sustainably, communally and wisely in this particular place.

"-Affordable and safe housing in Cowichan

-Preserving farmlands and forests in Cowichan and protecting them from ""exploratory searches"" associated with fracking, and other harmful practices that could damage our already fragile water supply - as such, ca"

Highway bypass , walking and bike path running along the highways as in most other towns , rest areas on each side of the highway

"Reduce local govt coats by amalgamating yourselves.

Leave private business to do the business and support infrastructure such as the hospital, sidewalks and really promote the region to people who live here by cross promoting the region.

Visitors who come here still don't know how to get around, way finding, busses with maps that work, smaller busses perhaps - graphic timetables - how to get around made more accessible to the masses .no pst can find a bus timetable anywhere and to be told to go online when your phone is on roaming is foolishness.

Support for local businesses - bring back the garbage pick up. Really!"

"controlling rapidly growing population

making sure to keep our water pure

making local jobs available for our youth so they do not have to travel out of province"

"1. High taxes for the services we get

2. Wasteful spending like purchasing the curling club, taxing us to build a second theater.

3. Too much municipal spending on items that should be in the private sector such as owning gravel pits, in house trucking, and owing too much machinery and equipment compared to any town in BC."

"Water protection

Farm land leases and acquisition

Transit"

"listen to the people more. cut back on spending . No more roundabouts fix up some of our already poor shape roads we have a lot!!

"

"water/ land conservation

affordable housing

education funding for better programs at the local school and daycares

"

"Protection of entire Somenos Marsh and creek.

Promoting retail areas outside of Downtown .. ie Koksilha Retail Village in community plan.

Promote tourism through more promotion of Forestry, Trans Canada Trail, Parks and the beautiful outdoors.

"

"stop allowing private building at waterfront - across the street - fine, but leave the waters accessible to all.

The zero waste needs to make sense, an the way it is being handled doesn't make sense.

Protect farmland, and fight the pipeline."

"1) inability to listen to the people and act accordingly

2) too much focus on creating municipalities and not enough on providing the appropriate services to the communities they serve

3) financial accountability "

"Preserving rural lifestyle and environment.

Sustainable development that provide well paying employment.

"

"1. Controlling wasting tax payers money.

2. Refuting socialist dogma of free money and services for nothing.

3. Stop the incessant ""job creation"" for dreamed up needs."

Amalgamation of Duncan and North Cowichan, do it now and stop wasting tax dollars

"Cowichan river water levels

Balance between development and standing still

Thinking outside the box for the future"

Water / effectively managing + protecting natural resources / job creation

Water, air quality and supporting those who are trying to bring a consciousness about our environment.

Parameters for development, economic sustainability, protecting the environment

native issues we are a city divided, jobs including problems of temporary workers who are not Canadian but take our jobs, protection of the environment

Water. affordable housing, protecting the environment

"1. (Could be three points) Develop and/or strengthen community plans that protect our environment (air, water and agricultural land base)

2. Be honest and open with constituents and stop making costly mistakes associated with favouring special projects that go against our community plans.

3. Communicate more effectively. Perhaps have quarterly public meetings for open discussion with the entire community."

"Accountability

Reduction of spending

Amalgamation"

"1) Fiscal management and accountability-Large expenditures such as the new tourist info centre and municipal offices should go to public referendum.

2) For issues such as affordable housing and aboriginal issues, local governments need to pressure provincial or federal ministries that currently have these mandates to make changes that are seen to be important local to issues. Until those levels of government relinquish their mandate responsibilities, local government will be relatively ineffective in making change happen. We should not be make changes locally that should be part of or are currently part of a national or provincial policy, and not making it attractive for people from outside the local area to settle here because the benefits are better here than elsewhere.

3) There should be ban on in camera council meetings and decision made at those meetings. All council meetings should be open to public scrutiny."

Development, Helping your farmers .environmental new technology .

1. Local watershed management; 2. encouraging sustainable agriculture; 3. regaining some control over private (industrial) forest land management

"Homelessness,poverty

the traffic on the TCH through Duncan

pave Mountain Rd"

"Needless spending

Amalgamation

Overpaid executives"

"Water protection

Listening to the constituents

communicating & working with first nations on joint ventures

"

We need more recycle programs. More organic farmland and farmers. Have our water number one priority from pollution and waste .

"Reducing taxes

Stop needless spending

Listen to the people"

"High taxes

lack of common sense

excessive spending "

"industry for employment

health facilities

public education

"

"Contaminated soil dumps.

Cowichan raising it's weir and drowning the shoreline like they did in Shawnigan.

Logging must be controlled and hemp used to replace trees."

"You're going to think I don't understand the question. I do, I just don't play the game the same way must do.

The first most pressing issue is the federal conservative government. It's underhanded, habitual behaviour makes this whole survey a bit redundant. They've made it undeniably clear that it doesn't matter what the citizens want, even when the majority of the provinces speak loudly. I know this isn't a municipal or provincial issue by the rules of the game but when the game is rigged, playing by the rules doesn't matter.

The next issue is greed. We're figuring out. It's been easier lately to do so because, in many cases, politics is no longer trying to hide it... or maybe my inadvertent involvement in the process has given me a new perspective. Having been privy to the behind-the-scenes process of the Stebbings road contaminated soil dump has been eye-opening... disheartening. I have been relieved of my naivety regarding this whole process, and not personality being a fighter, I don't see the point in playing the game. I don't buy it.

The third issue is lack of faith. Many of us don't believe you anymore. Beyond that, many of us aren't playing anymore.

Do with this what you will. It's an opportunity, if nothing else, to think about it. You who play the game are the ones who can keep the game-play in action for a longer time but you have to start asking open ended questions, not the leading, multiple choice questions that you have been. The lesser-of-two-evils isn't an option for a lot of us, anymore."

"local government staff wages and benefits are out of control!!!!!! AMALGAMATE!!!!

more public funds towards seniors who have contributed to society rather than so much going towards people who choose to complain poor me and stand for hours asking others for money, instead of putting themselves out there and work, even if it is minimum wage, then maybe affordable housing would make more sense!!!! try finding a place for an aging couple who would like to be together, that has support care and is affordable!!!!!!!!!! the cowichan lodge should have been fixed up for them!!!

local taxes need to be lowered and moneys collected need to have more public input as to how it is used!!!!!! (thanks, John Koury for trying to keep tax increases down!)"

Solving our water shortages, keeping our local farm lands safe, and reducing our greenhouse effects.

taxes, taxes and taxes!

"Contaminated soil dumping

Working with first nations

Water sustainability "

Not building in protected land such as the marsh, housing & feeding the homeless, amalgamation of Duncan/N.Cowichan

"Job Creation

Lower Taxes

Accountability "

"Grass root organizations that are proposing that all pipelines and tankers that bring oil and gas to Vancouver Island should be discontinued which would significantly disrupt the economy of the Island. They need to be brought to account.

large cars that use more than average amounts of fuel should be surcharged as a means to reduce the consumption of petrochemicals.

"

Job creation, affordable housing, municipal efficiency, waste, bad decision making and high taxes

"1) Property taxes are out of control. They need to cut property taxes.

2) Water - or lack of water. They need to do a lot more so this doesn't continue to happen. Why the Crofton Mill has control of our water is a crime.

3) STOP SPENDING!!!!!"

Amalgamation, consulting with the public community for input into such hideous building plans as the information centre. Ugly + poor location = big waste of money! If anything, it should have complimented the buildings at the BC Logging and Forestry Centre. Solar projects, watershed protection, recycling, and exerting more control over forestry practises. Make forestry and logging companies replant clear cuts!

"Downloading from Federal-Provincial

High cost of service delivery

Limited elasticity of the Property Tax base"

Water, air quality, bike lanes and public transit

clean water, clean air, education availability and jobs for our citizens.

air quality, preservation of agricultural land, alternate highway and/or railway

"1. Transportation and bussing. Combine with school District?

2. Recycling and actually recycling the products instead of shipping off the product to be buried elsewhere.

3. Soil and water protections - Ocean, river and lake. This includes the land and avoiding the further erosion of the ALR. Let's make food locally!"

"Employment

Housing

Cost Effective measures and plans."

1. protection of agriculture both large and small 2. containment of urban sprawl 3. protection of ecological integrity

I believe the most pressing issue for everyone is the management of the environment. I also believe helping those who are living in poverty by using affordable housing and daycare is very important.

"Water protection

Lessen fossil fuel use

Spend more on education of primary through secondary"

Environmental contamination, sustainable land development, sustainable resource use

"1) Littering

2) Job creation and boosting economy

"

"1. clean and adequate water supply

2. stop infringement of Agricultural lands from development

3. protect our forests"

"1. Imposition of federal and provincial laws on our valley e.g. Ministry of Mines permitting removal of gravel on land which is zoned residential.

2. Water crisis

3. Contamination of our lands - toxic soil"

"Local Government Officials are over paid.

We need to repair/upgrade what we have, roads, crosswalk paintings etc.

The Shawnigan Lake Water Shed Contamination Issue. "

Sorry I haven't given it much thought.

High paid government employees, putting out more money than income causing tax increases, poorly designed traffic circles in the wrong places.
"

"water

land development use (huge subdivisions going in places like Cow Bay, Maple Bay, Other areas)

Environmental protections"

"Water useage, and conservation at an individual homeowner level

Suburban creep into rural areas

Increasing agricultural and energy self sufficiency, and planning for future times when much of what we take for granted, like imported foods, will be hard to get and expensive"

"lack of local control (ie: federal government removing waterway protections)

lack of co-operation/communication with other local governments (incl first nations)

dealing with perceived conflicting priorities - ie: environment versus economy"

"Lack of residential care beds

Lack of end of life care beds and hospice beds"

environmental protection, fair wages that offer more purchasing power to the lower strata (encouraging local investment) are the two biggest concerns from my perspective. Thank you for asking these questions.

"Ensuring a clean, steady water supply

Budgeting and carrying out infrastructure priorities

Amalgamate Duncan INTO North Cowichan and reduce duplication of services"

"-Regional poverty (high levels of food bank use, hunger, minimum wage does not match the cost of living in the Cowichan, lack of affordable housing...)

-Water sovereignty

-Economic development that is in conflict with environmental sustainability/resili"

"-amalgamation

-ALR use"

"Protecting our water.

Creating new jobs and training young adults

Enforcing current bylaws

"

Water resources, solid waste and recycling and fiscal responsibility.

- "1. protection of farmland from encroaching subdivision development
2. Provision of scenic trails and parking at trail-heads
3. In the long run, industrial development cannot replace scenic values"

- "1. Water
2. Air
3. Development "

- "1. Water
2. Affordable housing
3. Seniors"

" Amalgamation
Water "

"Would like to see a program to make land more affordable for local farmers

Programs to encourage water saving, rather than raising the weir"

"A responsive government to its electorate

A realignment of development process of environment values

Amalgamation in favour with ward system

"

"Fire threats of forest fire

Duncan city parking signs should not say customer parking "

"Water- stop dumping at shawnigan lake

Fix the weir issue

Stop kissing ass to the pulp mill and make them pay taxes"

"The environment

The environment!

The environment!!"

"Environment and protection of farmland

Creating good job \$15/hr or higher

"

"#2

#2

#1"

"Our water shortage in the river
Protecting our habitats in someones
Protecting out farmlands"

"Protecting our water sources is essential going forward. As is fostering an active, successful agriculture in the valley. As a year round cycle commuter I would love to see more awareness for drivers regarding road sharing laws and some basic infrastructure to encourage more cycling. Also, more bike stands would be nice in the down town core
"

"climate change/global warming
-don't build/live in floodplain
duplication of services
-look seriously at amalgamation
food supply
-promote local food supply
-rural and urban small farms"

#NAME?

"-fresh water protection
-food sustainability
-rapid public transit and trains"

Cash supply

"Education(public) stop the cuts
Politician wages and previsions should be reduced
Stop fracking and other pollutants
"

"Clean drinking water

Burning issues

Clean up south shore rd in L.C especially municipal buildings "

"Learning to work together

Pushing the province to get back to local school boards finding or creating sustainable industry "

"Amalgamation

Encouraging older people to retire here like Elliott lake in Ontario "

"We need industry. Give tax breaks, free recant incentives

We need to look after our homeless, mentally ill elderly "

"water supply - sustainability
controlling costs"

1, 7, 13, 14

"job creation in cowichan area
less power for cvrd, too much control"

"water levels
poverty & homelessness"

"honesty is lacking
using money for the betterment of the community"

"Economic Development

Environmental issues

water"

"control of watershed
working with First Nations
sustainable future"

12, 4, 18

"forest does not equal farming
out of touch stupidity & insensitivity
backbone to do what's right vs political
one planet, get it right"

"amalgamation

property taxes

traffic"

"working with First Nations

Long term for water

no pipelines & fracking"

#NAME?

"-job creation

-environmental protection"

#NAME?

"environmental (air quality, adequate water, etc)
need for low cost housing
infrastructure"

"the environment (decreasing our carbon footprint)
First Nations culture preservation"

"-potable water

-traffic through core of Duncan

-cleaning up reserve properties"

"looking into developing sustainable resources

The use of more electric vehicles

reducing waste and promoting more reuse"

"-managing growth

-maintaining what we've got with integrity

-even for Ladysmith"

"protecting the beautiful nature that surrounds us. creating environmentally friendly and sustainable jobs.

working together with First Nations Chiefs on decisions for the land"

"amalgamation.

keeping their wages reasonable.

taking care of the people at home"

Honesty and less politics to get things done. Our N Cowichan council is a disaster and we need to clean house - or listen to the ones that do the work there.

ALR, watershed

"-my taxes should go to infrastructure and necessary services

-no grants to frivolous requests

-send message of personal responsibilities"

"sustainable water supply.

congestion through Duncan on the hwy"

healthcare, education, ALR

"higher education & more affordable or programs.

make the buses more frequent and run longer.

safer walk ways and bike paths"

the segregated cowichan population

"water quality and availability.

treating farmlands and forests with more respect and higher regard.

diverting island traffic from Duncan"

"Raise the weir, local watershed control.

more First Nations consultation.

Sustainable job creation"

better communication with local citizens for accountability for all their actions