



The Rural Comox Valley Business Newsletter helps local business owners stay ahead of decisions and opportunities that may affect their operations. Each month, we monitor CVRD meetings, planning applications, infrastructure projects, business programs, grants, training opportunities, and community initiatives, then provide a concise summary of what happened, what's coming next, and why it matters.

Comox Valley Regional District Update

Stage 3 Water Restrictions Begin June 23

Business Impact: ● High

The CVRD announced that Stage 3 water restrictions would take effect on June 23—the earliest the region has reached this level of restrictions. The change was triggered by reduced flows in the Puntledge River due to low snowpack and dry conditions. Restrictions affect the Comox Valley Water System, including Electoral Areas A, B and C.

Why it matters

Businesses in landscaping, agriculture, hospitality, tourism, food production and property maintenance should review the restrictions, adjust operations where necessary, and communicate any impacts to customers.

Source:

<https://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/connect/news/stage-3-water-restrictions-effect-june-23>

New Septic System Rebate Program Launched

Business Impact: ● Opportunity

The CVRD launched a three-year Septic System Maintenance Rebate Program for properties in Electoral Areas A, B and C. Eligible property owners can receive up to \$700 toward inspections and qualifying maintenance completed by authorized professionals. Funding is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Why it matters

Many rural businesses operate on private septic systems. This program may help reduce maintenance costs while protecting water quality and avoiding more expensive repairs.

Source:

<https://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/connect/news/comox-valley-regional-district-launches-three-year-septic-system-maintenance-rebate>

Transportation Priorities Discussed with Province

Business Impact: ● Watch

The Electoral Areas Services Committee received an update from the Ministry of Transportation and Transit on road maintenance, current projects and transportation priorities affecting the rural electoral areas. The discussion highlighted ongoing collaboration between the CVRD and the Province on transportation issues.

Why it matters

Road conditions and transportation investments directly affect customer access, employee commuting, freight movement and tourism throughout rural communities.

Source: <https://cvrldagendaminutes.comoxvalleyrd.ca/CVRDminutes/default.aspx?DocumentTypeID=2&MeetingID=4420>

Temporary Use Regulation Consultation

Business Impact: ● Watch

The CVRD held a public information meeting on a proposed Temporary Use Regulation bylaw affecting the electoral areas. Temporary use permits can enable short-term commercial activities while broader planning decisions are considered.

Why it matters

Businesses considering seasonal operations, agritourism, temporary events or emerging business models should monitor changes to temporary use regulations.

Source: <https://cprd.ca/notice-of-public-information-meeting-thursday-june-18-2026-at-500-p-m-re-bylaw-no-4727-temporary-use-regulation/>

Parks and Community Programming Expands

Business Impact: ● Opportunity

The CVRD announced new community programming in regional parks and celebrated local parks through a series of public events. Increased visitation to parks can generate additional traffic for nearby cafés, farm stands, accommodations and tourism operators.

Why it matters

Businesses located near parks and recreation areas may benefit from increased visitor activity during the summer season.

Source: <https://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/connect/news>

Harbour Water Advisory Lifted

Business Impact: ● Positive

Following extensive testing after the May wastewater spill, the CVRD lifted the precautionary water quality advisory for most of Comox Harbour and the Estuary, while keeping a small area under advisory.

Why it matters

This is positive news for tourism operators, marine businesses, paddling companies and waterfront businesses as summer visitor activity ramps up.

Source:

Planning & Development Watch

Proposed Telecommunications Tower – 771 Hatch Point Road

Electoral Area: Area C (Puntledge–Black Creek)

Business Impact: ● Opportunity

A proposal for a new telecommunications tower at 771 Hatch Point Road advanced through the public information process in June. The project is intended to improve cellular coverage in the surrounding area and is being reviewed through the federal telecommunications approval process.

Why it matters:

Reliable cell service is essential for payment systems, online bookings, remote work, emergency communications and visitor experiences. Improved coverage could benefit tourism operators, farms, home-based businesses and rural residents throughout the area.

Status: Public information meeting held June 11.

Source: <https://cvrld.ca/planning-and-development/development-and-zoning/active-development-applications/>

Temporary Use Regulation Bylaw No. 4727

Electoral Areas: Areas A, B & C

Business Impact: ● Opportunity

The CVRD held a public information meeting on a proposed Temporary Use Regulation Bylaw that would create a consistent framework for issuing temporary use permits for commercial and industrial activities across the electoral areas.

Why it matters:

The proposed changes could provide greater flexibility for seasonal businesses, agritourism ventures, temporary commercial activities, special events and entrepreneurs testing new business concepts.

Status: Public consultation completed; Board consideration underway.

Source: <https://cverd.ca/notice-of-public-information-meeting-thursday-june-18-2026-at-500-p-m-re-by-law-no-4727-temporary-use-regulation/>

Rezoning Application RZ24A04 – Okotoks Drive / Meadow Way

Electoral Area: Area A (Baynes Sound–Denman/Hornby Islands)

Business Impact: ● Watch

A public hearing was held regarding Rezoning Application RZ24A04 affecting properties at 240 Okotoks Drive and 296 Meadow Way. The application is moving through the CVRD planning process and has received public input.

Why it matters:

Rezoning applications can influence future land use, housing availability, infrastructure investment and commercial opportunities in surrounding communities.

Status: Public hearing completed.

Find out more: <https://cverd.ca/category/public-hearings/>

Development Tracker

Project	Electoral Area	Status	Business Relevance
Telecommunications Tower – Hatch Point Road	Area C	Public Information Complete	Improved connectivity
Temporary Use Regulation Bylaw	Areas A, B & C	Under Review	Greater flexibility for temporary commercial uses
Rezoning Application RZ24A04	Area A	Public Hearing Complete	Potential land use changes
Active Development Applications	Areas A, B & C	Ongoing	Future growth and investment opportunities

Upcoming CVRD Meetings & Engagement Opportunities

The following meetings are open to the public and provide opportunities to stay informed or participate in decisions affecting businesses in Electoral Areas A (Baynes Sound–Denman/Hornby Islands), B (Lazo North) and C (Puntledge–Black Creek).

Electoral Areas Services Committee

Next Meetings:

- Wednesday, July 15, 2026 | 9:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, September 2, 2026 | 9:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, September 16, 2026 | 9:30 a.m. *(subject to the annual meeting calendar)*

Location:

CVRD Civic Room (Board Room)
770 Harmston Avenue
Courtenay, BC

Areas: A, B & C

Open to the Public? Yes – Members of the public may attend and observe. Public input and delegations are available through the CVRD's established process.

Topics Typically Discussed:

- Transportation and road issues
- Water, sewer and utilities
- Community parks and trails
- Fire protection
- Bylaw enforcement
- Community grants
- Electoral area services
- Rural infrastructure projects

Why businesses should care:

This is one of the most important meetings for rural businesses. Many issues affecting Area A, B and C—including transportation, infrastructure, utilities, community grants and planning recommendations—are discussed here before moving to the CVRD Board.

Learn more: <https://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/minutes-agendas>

CVRD Board Meeting

Next Meetings:

- Wednesday, July 22, 2026 | 9:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, September 23, 2026 | 9:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, October 28, 2026 | 9:30 a.m. *(subject to the annual meeting calendar)*

Location:

CVRD Board Room
770 Harmston Avenue
Courtenay, BC

Areas: A, B & C

Open to the Public? Yes – Members of the public may attend in person or watch the livestream when available. Public input opportunities are offered at the beginning of most meetings with advance registration available for virtual participation.

Topics Typically Discussed:

- Final approval of bylaws
- Regional budgets
- Planning and development
- Infrastructure investments
- Water and sewer services
- Regional parks
- Economic development
- Major regional policies

Why businesses should care:

This is where many of the final decisions affecting rural businesses are made. If an issue has been discussed at committee, this is usually where it is approved, amended or referred back.

Learn more: <https://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/minutes-agendas>

Advisory Planning Commission (APC)

Next Meetings:

Meeting dates are scheduled as required and separately for Area A, Area B, and Area C. Upcoming meetings are posted once planning applications are received.

Location:

Typically held at the CVRD Civic Room, 770 Harmston Avenue, Courtenay, BC, unless otherwise noted on the agenda.

Areas: Separate meetings for Areas A, B and C

Open to the Public? Yes – Members of the public may attend. Public participation depends on the agenda and meeting procedures.

Topics Typically Discussed:

- Rezoning applications
- Development permits
- Temporary use permits
- Official Community Plan amendments
- Land use planning

Why businesses should care:

Planning Commission meetings provide one of the earliest opportunities to learn about proposed developments that may affect business activity, tourism, transportation, housing or future commercial opportunities.

Learn more: <https://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/planning-and-development/development-and-zoning/advisory-planning-commissions>

Public Hearings & Public Information Meetings

When: Scheduled as required throughout the year.

Location:

Listed in each public notice (typically at CVRD Headquarters or within the community affected by the proposal).

Areas: Depends on the project location.

Open to the Public? Yes – Public participation is encouraged.

Topics Typically Discussed:

- Rezoning applications
- Bylaw amendments
- Temporary use permits
- Major development proposals

Why businesses should care:

These meetings are the best opportunity to provide feedback before decisions are made. If a proposal could

affect access, customers, neighbouring land uses or future business opportunities, your input can influence the outcome.

Learn more: <https://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/planning-and-development/development-and-zoning/public-hearings-and-notices-intent>

Provincial Business Updates

Province Expands International Trade Opportunities

Business Impact: ● Opportunity

The Province announced a trade mission to strengthen relationships with China, British Columbia's second-largest export market. The mission focuses on creating opportunities for businesses in forestry, agriculture, tourism, clean energy and food production while expanding markets beyond the United States.

Why it matters:

Businesses involved in agriculture, value-added food production, forestry, manufacturing and tourism may benefit from expanded export opportunities and increased international visitor interest.

Find out more: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2026JEG0029-000743>

Province Reports Progress on Reducing Red Tape

Business Impact: ● Opportunity

The Province released its annual report on regulatory modernization, highlighting efforts to simplify regulations, improve digital government services and reduce administrative requirements for businesses.

Why it matters:

Reducing administrative barriers can make it easier for businesses to access government services, permits and programs while reducing time spent on regulatory processes.

Find out more: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/ministries/jobs-and-economic-growth>

B.C. Added More Than 25,000 Jobs in May

Business Impact: ● Watch

According to the Province's latest labour market update, British Columbia added more than 25,000 jobs in May, including over 7,000 youth jobs. While employment improved, labour availability and workforce challenges continue to vary across industries and regions.

Why it matters:

Labour market trends influence hiring, wages and workforce availability for local businesses, particularly in tourism, hospitality, retail and agriculture.

Find out more: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/ministries/jobs-and-economic-growth>

Province Continues Investing in Local Food Systems

Business Impact: ● Opportunity

The Province announced additional funding to strengthen local food systems by supporting producers, improving food distribution networks and increasing access to locally produced food. Although announced in the Kootenays, the initiative reflects the Province's continued investment in strengthening regional food economies.

Why it matters:

The announcement signals continued provincial support for local agriculture and food processing, which could lead to future funding opportunities for producers and food businesses across B.C.

Find out more: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/ministries/jobs-and-economic-growth>

Federal Business Updates

Increased Defence Spending Expected to Benefit CFB Comox

Business Impact: ● Opportunity

The federal government's commitment to increasing defence spending is expected to result in additional investment in military infrastructure, equipment and operations across Canada. As one of Canada's key air force bases, CFB Comox could see future investments that support operations, personnel and facilities.

Why it matters:

CFB Comox is a major economic driver in the Comox Valley. Increased federal investment can create opportunities for local contractors, suppliers, trades, professional services, accommodations and other businesses that support military personnel and their families.

Find out more: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence.html>

Canada Continues to Diversify International Trade

Business Impact: ● Opportunity

The federal government continues to pursue trade diversification strategies aimed at expanding access to international markets and reducing reliance on any single trading partner.

Why it matters:

Export-oriented businesses in agriculture, seafood, manufacturing and value-added food production may benefit from improved market access and new trade opportunities.

Find out more: <https://www.international.gc.ca/trade-commerce>

Federal Funding Programs Available for Rural Businesses

Business Impact: ● Opportunity

Several federal funding programs remain open to support business growth, innovation, workforce development and clean technology adoption. Programs are available through regional development agencies and federal departments.

Why it matters:

Businesses planning expansions, equipment purchases, training initiatives or new projects may be eligible for funding assistance.

Find out more: <https://innovation.ised-isde.canada.ca>