



BYLAW NO. 3152

Sign Regulation Bylaw 2002

Adopted on September 4, 2002

The Council of The Corporation of the District of North Cowichan, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

Interpretation

1 In this bylaw:

“**canopy**” means a fixed, unenclosed structure projecting from a building wall to protect the public from the weather;

“**clearance curb**” means the distance between a sign or canopy and the elevation of the nearest curb line vertically coinciding with the horizontal axis of the lowest part of the sign or canopy;

“**clearance height**” means the distance between the lowest part of a sign or canopy and the grade below it;

“**flashing sign**” means a directly or indirectly illuminated sign exhibiting natural or artificial light changing in intensity or colour;

“**freestanding sign**” means a sign supported by a structure rather than attached to a building or structure;

“**projecting sign**” means a sign projecting more than 0.3 m (11.81 in.) from the face or wall of the building or structure to which it is attached;

“**sign**” means a structure, natural object, thing, or painting or representation on any of them,

- (a) used as, or in the nature of, an announcement, direction, or advertisement, and
- (b) intended to attract attention to an object, product, place, activity, person, institution, organization, or business;

“**window sign**” means a sign applied or attached to either side of a window in view of the public.

Permit requirement

2 (1) Subject to the subsection (2), a permit is required to erect or place a sign.

(2) A permit referred to in subsection (1) is not required to erect or place the following:

- (a) a sign on or over private or public property announcing the date of a

charitable event or function, if the sign is erected or placed no sooner than 2 weeks before, and removed no later than 3 days after, the date of the event or function;

- (b) a sign promoting a community health, safety, or welfare campaign;
- (c) at most 1 unlighted sign about selling, leasing, hiring, or renting the real or personal property on which the sign is displayed, if the sign does not exceed 0.75 m² (8.1 sq. ft.) in area;
- (d) a sign erected or placed by North Cowichan;
- (e) a political sign (*i.e.* a temporary sign announcing or supporting a political candidate or issue in connection with an election, referendum, or plebiscite);
- (f) at most 1 sign not exceeding 0.56 m² (6.0 sq. ft.) in area, displaying only “entrance” or “exit” at an entrance to or exit from an off-street parking lot;
- (g) at most 1 sign not exceeding 1.0 m² (10.76 sq. ft.) in area and displaying the name of a contractor, engineer, or architect engaged in constructing, altering, or demolishing a building or structure, if the sign is removed no later than the start of the last inspection of the building or structure under North Cowichan’s building bylaw;
- (h) a window sign whose area does not exceed 25% of the area of the window to which it is attached;
- (i) a sign not exceeding 0.56 m² (6.0 sq. ft.) in area, displayed only to prevent trespassing;
- (j) a sign not exceeding 0.56 m² (6.0 sq. ft.) in area, attached to a dwelling house, and displaying only the name and occupation of the dwelling house’s occupant;
- (k) at most 1 bulletin board not exceeding 1.1 m² (11.84 sq. ft.) in area, on a public building, school, or church property;
- (l) at most 1 sign not exceeding 2.2 m² (24.0 sq. ft.) in area, in a subdivision, displayed for no more than 6 months, advertising lots for sale in the subdivision;
- (m) at most 1 sign indicating a subdivision’s name;
- (n) a sign indicating the direction to a church.

Permits

3 On receiving a written application accompanied by plans and specifications showing the following, and payment of the fee prescribed by section 4, the Building Inspector must issue a permit to erect or place a sign:

- (a) the boundaries of the lot on which the sign is proposed to be erected or placed;
- (b) the sign’s proposed location relative to any building wall;

- (c) the sign's proposed height and the proposed clearance under the sign, measured from grade;
- (d) the materials, construction method, illumination, and colours proposed to be used for the sign.

Permit fee

4 The fee for a permit to erect or place a sign is

- (a) \$15.00 for the first \$5 000.00 in the sign's value, and
- (b) \$3.00 per \$1 000.00 in the sign's value exceeding \$5 000.00.

Regulations

5 (1) A freestanding sign must

- (a) not be located closer than 1.5 m (4.92 ft.) to an adjoining parcel,
- (b) not exceed 8 m (26.25 ft.) in height,
- (c) not exceed the smaller of
 - (i) 0.19 m² (2.05 sq. ft.) in area per lineal 0.3 m (1.0 ft.) of street frontage, or
 - (ii) 18 m² (194 sq. ft.) in area,
- (d) not project over a public right-of-way,
- (e) have a clearance height of at least 4.3 m (14.11 ft.) where there is vehicle traffic, and
- (f) not be a flashing sign in a Commercial Local Zone (C1).

(2) A fascia sign (*i.e.* a flat sign projecting no more than 0.3 m (11.81 in.) from the face or wall of the building or structure to which it is attached and running parallel to the face or wall of the building or structure for sign's whole length) or canopy sign must

- (a) not exceed 0.09 m² (0.97 sq. ft.) in area per lineal 0.3 m (1.0 ft.) of building frontage,
- (b) have a clearance height of at least 2.7 m (8.86 ft.) and clearance curb of at least 0.6 m (2 ft.), and
- (c) not be a flashing sign in a Commercial Local Zone (C1).

(3) A projecting sign must

- (a) not exceed the smaller of
 - (i) 0.19 m² (2.05 sq. ft.) in area per lineal 0.3 m (1.0 ft.) of street frontage, or
 - (ii) 18 m² (194 sq. ft.) in area,
- (b) have a clearance height of at least 2.7 m (8.86 ft.) and clearance curb of at least 0.6 m (2 ft.), and

- (c) not be a flashing sign in a Commercial Local Zone (C1).
- (4) An off-premises sign advertising a good, service, or facility is permitted on a Municipal playing field, subject to the following:
 - (a) the revenue acquired by the organization responsible for the playing field from the organization sponsoring the sign must be used to improve the playing field;
 - (b) the organization responsible for the playing field is responsible for monitoring and maintaining the sign.
- (5) Not more than 1 freestanding sign or projecting sign per lot is permitted.

Political posters and bills

6 Before a person may post a political poster or bill, the person must deposit security in the amount of \$100.00 with North Cowichan to ensure that every election poster or bill posted by the person is removed within 7 days after general voting day.

Prohibitions

- 7** (1) Subject to section 908 (3) of the *Local Government Act*, no sign may be erected or placed on, against, or above a building or structure’s roof, roof eave, or parapet.
- (2) No person may drop or scatter an advertisement from a conveyance.

Sign owner’s duty

8 A sign’s owner must keep the sign and its supports, braces, guys, and anchors in good repair in terms of safety and appearance.

Prosecutions

- 9** (1) A person who violates a provision of this bylaw is guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$1 000.00 plus the cost of prosecution.
- (2) A separate offence is considered to be committed on each day during which a violation continues.

Repeal

10 Bylaw No. 2071, the Sign Regulation Bylaw 1983, is repealed.

Bylaw readings

First reading August 14, 2002
 Second reading August 14, 2002
 Third reading August 14, 2002

M.O. Ruttan, Municipal Clerk

H.R. Hollett, Mayor