

Balancing Community Growth and Green Space Preservation in Electoral Area D

Managing growth while protecting the natural environment that makes Area D special requires a realistic, legally sound strategy.

While models like Cumberland's work well for large corporate timber holdings, Area D operates under different land-use dynamics:

Private Forest Lands are Working Lands: Our local private forests represent private livelihoods. Landowners have rightful concerns about property damage, liability, and fire risk, and they choose to keep their lands private. Respecting private property rights is fundamental to fair governance.

Respecting First Nations Territory: Significant local green space is managed under First Nations jurisdiction. Honouring their privacy requests and preventing trespassing on their lands is essential to good governance and mutual respect.

Strong OCP Safeguards for New Development: Under our new Official Community Plan (OCP), protection of Environmentally Sensitive Areas is mandatory. Developers are required to complete environmental inventories and set aside critical green spaces, natural drainage features, and sensitive ecosystems prior to development.

Growing Our Public Park System: Area D actively uses statutory mechanisms—such as parkland dedications during land division, statutory right-of-ways for trail corridors, to enhance public recreation space for everyone.

Sustainable growth isn't about making promises on land we don't own; it is about using the legal and planning tools we have to protect sensitive ecosystems and build a lasting public park system.