

HAVE YOU NOTICED TRESPASSERS/ILLEGAL CAMPS ON RESERVE?

Cowichan Tribes has noticed an increase of encampments (trespassing, illegal camping, squatting) on reserve lands, which is a community safety concern. These encampments impact the land and can be areas of illegal drug and alcohol use. Our goal is to try to reduce the number and size of these encampments, ensuring the health and safety of everyone.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Try to avoid a squatter situation from happening. If you plan on leaving your property vacant, make sure it is secure. Check on your property regularly. Post "Private Property No Trespassing" signs in areas of your property.

If you come across a squatter, here is what you can do:

1. Notify the RCMP (Non-emergency line: 250-748-5522)

Act immediately if you discover a squatter/ trespasser by calling the police if there are immediate risks or safety concerns.

2. Call the Cowichan Tribes Bylaw Officer (250-748-3196)

Notify the Bylaw Officer, they will make the first attempt to peaceably convince the squatters / trespassers to pack up their encampment and move on.

3. Give Notice

Write and serve an eviction notice.

4. Handle the Abandoned Personal Property / Clean Up

Contact [SHARPS](#) if you encounter any needles (24/7 non-emergency line 250-732-3330). There are multiple disposal sites within the Cowichan Valley (find a location near you [here](#)).

ARE THERE RESOURCES TO HELP? YES!

Below are some helpful contacts:

1. Housing Alternatives: [Warmland House](#); [Somenos House](#)
2. Outreach Workers: [House of Friendship](#); [Victoria Native Friendship Centre](#)
3. Mental Health and Addictions Support: [Cowichan Valley Branch - Canadian Mental Health Association](#)
4. Food Resources: [Cowichan Green Community](#)

Questions? Contact Cowichan Tribes Bylaw Officer Jason Seward 250-7483196 or Jason.Seward@cowichantribes.com

