

**John Thomas**

Town of Lake Cowichan

Dear John Thomas,

Our team would like to extend our deepest gratitude and appreciation for your coordination, dedication, and support during the Mount Underwood Wildfire. The recent events were challenging for all involved, and we want to take a moment to acknowledge the immense contribution of our Cowichan Regional Emergency Operations Centre (REOC) multi-jurisdictional team.

This response involved coordination and collaboration across departments, agencies, and organizations. From the early stages of activation through to demobilization, the efficiency with which everything was handled is a testament to the strength and commitment of the Cowichan REOC team. Your quick response, expert management, and tireless work to coordinate our response to this wildfire event demonstrate the tremendous professionalism you bring to emergency management.

Many of us are seeing the growing impact that wildfires have on our communities. We are incredibly fortunate to be part of building a more resilient response and recovery process – specifically a regional emergency operations centre which brings together our local government and community partners to respond as one entity. The determination and resilience of people like you, who step up in times of need to serve on this team, are invaluable. Whether you were working in the field, in operations, or behind the scenes, you made a tangible difference, and for that, we are grateful.

We feel privileged to live in a community that is protected by individuals who are willing to go beyond their daily work and support emergencies when they happen. Please accept this token of our appreciation, and thank you again for everything you have done and continue to do.

With heartfelt appreciation,

*Ryan Wainwright*

Ryan Wainwright,  
Sr. Manager, EMC



Danielle Myles-Wilson  
CAO, Cowichan Valley Regional District