



REPORT

To: Chair and Directors

Report Number: CS-BRD-006

From: Trish Morgan, General Manager of Community Services

Date: May 5, 2020

Subject: COVID-19 Update #4

RECOMMENDATION: [Corporate Unweighted]

That the Regional Board receive the May 5, 2020 report "COVID-19 Update #4" for discussion.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

On Monday, May 4, 2020 Dr. Bonnie Henry updated the province on the COVID-19 modelling and laid out the following principles that will form the foundation of the transition plan to a new normal:

- staying informed, being prepared and following public health advice;
- practicing good hygiene – hand hygiene, avoid touching your face and respiratory etiquette;
- staying at home and away from others if you are feeling ill – not ever going to school or work;
- maintaining physical distancing outside the household, e.g., no handshakes or hugs, and keeping your number of contacts low and keeping a safe distance;
- making necessary contacts safer with appropriate controls, e.g., using plexiglass barriers or redesigning spaces;
- increasing cleaning of frequently touched surfaces at home and work;
- considering the use of non-medical masks in situations where physical distancing cannot be maintained, such as on transit or while shopping; and
- continuing to reduce personal non-essential travel.

These principles need to become the basis for everyone's go forward plan – from each individual's personal plan, to the plans for the different sectors of our economy and society, to local governments developing their own operational and technical plans for transitioning.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is suggesting that consideration will also need to be given to how local governments can assist in stimulating the economy within their regions and communities while still protecting the health and well being of the community.

The following is a snapshot of the current situation and some measures that have been put into place by local, provincial, and federal governments.

British Columbia (as of May 5, 2020 according to [BC CDC](#))

1. **2,232 confirmed cases**
 - 1,472 recovered
 - 121 deaths
 - Cases by region:
 - 1,031 in Fraser Health

- 177 in Interior Health
- 124 in Island Health
- 51 in Northern Health
- 849 in Vancouver Coastal Health

2. [Projections](#)

Canada (as of May 5, 2020)

- Confirmed cases = 62,046
- Deaths = 4,043

Worldwide (as of May 5, 2020 from John's Hopkins University)

- Confirmed case = 3,659,271
- Deaths = 256,894

Government of Canada

- [\\$252 million](#) to support farmers, food businesses and food supply
- [\\$850 million](#) to contribute to the global fight against COVID-19
- Increased support through the [Canada Child Benefit](#)

Government of BC

- [Order](#) issued for Industrial Camps to reinforce the [guidelines](#) issued earlier
- Applications now being accepted online for the [BC Emergency Benefit for Workers](#)
- Digital registration system for Emergency Support System launched
- [Temporary layoff period](#) extended to 16 weeks from 13 weeks
- Province issued [Order M139](#) which discusses electronic meetings and changes public hearings in addition to [public hearing guidelines](#)

Peace River Regional District & Region

- Working with member municipalities on developing/updating mutual aid agreements for fire protection as well as separate agreements for water and waste water
- Investigating options for a virtual EOC
- Continuing to work on business continuity planning
- Looking forward to transition planning

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Regional Board receive the May 5, 2020 report "COVID-19 Updated #4" for information.
2. That the Regional Board provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- ☒ Partnerships
 - ☒ Collaboration with Local and First Nations governments
- ☒ Responsive Service Delivery
 - ☒ Enhance Emergency Planning and Response Capacity
- ☒ Advocacy
 - ☒ Emergency Response Capacity for Local Governments

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

Not applicable at this time.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

Staff continue to share important updates from the Government of BC, BC Centre for Disease Control, and Northern Health, in addition to updates from the Peace River Regional District on cancellations of meetings, impacts to service levels, etc. on the website COVID 19 resources page, via a weekly NEBC alert message, and sharing on social media.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

None

Attachments:

1. April 23, 2020 – Provincial Supports