



REPORT

To: Chair and Directors

Report Number: CS-BRD-007

From: Trish Morgan, General Manager of Community Services

Date: May 27, 2020

Subject: COVID-19 Update #5 - Recovery Plan Policy

RECOMMENDATION: *[Corporate Unweighted]*

That the Regional Board adopt the Peace River Regional District COVID-19 Recovery Plan Policy, which sets out the core measures that will guide the resumption of services provided by the PRRD and its partners, and authorizes the Chief Administrative Officer to update the Policy as necessary under Provincial and Federal Orders.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

On May 6, 2020, the Province of BC issued ["BC's Restart Plan"](#), which will allow for lifting of COVID-19 related restrictions in a phased approach. The principles identified in the Restart Plan, as well as WorkSafeBC guidelines, provide the foundation of the Peace River Regional District's COVID-19 Recovery Plan Policy.

The following represents a systematic process to resuming PRRD and partner operations in accordance with the requirements and guidelines set by the Province of BC.

Phase 1 – Mid to Late May 2020

- 1) Staff resume work in Dawson Creek and Fort St John offices
- 2) Montney Centennial Park and Iver Johnson Park open for day-use only

Phase 2 – June to September 2020 (if transmission rates remain low or are in decline)

- 1) PRRD offices open to the public (starting June 1st)
- 2) Charlie Lake Fire Department members resume in-person training, with conditions (starting June 1st)
- 3) PRRD community halls may resume maintenance and cleaning activities, with conditions (starting June 1st)
- 4) Essential public hearings, on a case by case basis, may resume in-person if electronic options are not available, and if appropriate meeting venues and sanitization requirements can be met
- 5) Blackfoot Regional Park opens for camping to the public (June 1st)
- 6) Minaker River Regional Park opens for camping (July 1st)
- 7) PRRD will consider, on a case by case basis, community halls holding small events with less than 50 people (starting in July)
- 8) Chetwynd Recreation Centre and North Peace Leisure Pool will open under the direction and control of the municipal operators
- 9) Buick and Clearview Arenas will open at the direction of School District No 60
- 10) Essential in-region travel

Phase 3 – TBD (dependent on public health, social and economic factors to be examined starting in August 2020)

- 1) Non-essential public or stakeholder meetings
- 2) Public engagement activities that involve residents opinion on services that may increase their taxes
- 3) In-person engagement with First Nations communities
- 4) Out-of-region travel

The COVID-19 Recovery Plan Policy outlines the physical distancing requirements, engineering controls, administrative controls, personal protective equipment, and cleaning and sanitization requirements for:

1. PRRD office workspaces & transportation;
2. regional & community parks;
3. community halls & recreation facilities;
4. landfills & transfer stations;
5. water tankloader stations;
6. the sewer receiving station;
7. public meetings; and
8. the Charlie Lake Fire Department.

The COVID-19 Recovery Plan Policy also notes that in the event of a second wave of COVID-19 that the PRRD will revert to the COVID-19 Response Plan.

The Municipal Insurance Association has recommended that local government recovery plans be adopted as policy by regional boards or councils. It is important to note that this plan will be a living document and will require updates and additions as restrictions are lifted or new information becomes available.

Therefore, it is recommended that the Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to update the Policy as necessary to ensure that it remains in alignment with Provincial and Federal orders as they relate to COVID-19.

Currently there is no timeline for Phase 3 of the PRRD's Plan, which is consistent with the Province of BC's Restart Plan (Phase 4 of their plan), which will only be implemented "when the threat of COVID-19 has been significantly diminished through widespread vaccination, broad successful treatments, evidence of community immunity, or the equivalent." The PRRD may be able to resume some activities listed in Phase 3 before a vaccine has become available, but the risk will need to be assessed prior to taking any action.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Regional Board provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- ☒ Not Applicable to Strategic Plan.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

Increased costs for:

- engineering controls for plexiglass barriers (~\$3,000);
- cleaning supplies, personal protective equipment, and hand sanitizers;
- janitorial services;

- vehicle costs in order for staff to travel one person per vehicle for capital projects and inspections;
- IT upgrades to allow for working remotely; and
- parks signage.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

The COVID-19 Recovery Plan Policy will be communicated:

- to staff through department meetings and on WINK (internal staff site);
- to community partner organizations through email, phone and mail. Staff will reach out to community hall operators to discuss the plan, and provide them with the section of the Plan applicable to community halls; as well as templates;
- to the public through the PRRD's website, Facebook page, and through signage posted at the offices, parks and other facilities; and
- to contractors through email and phone meetings to discuss requirements.

FAQ's and guidance documents will be created to act as a quick reference tool.

Where possible, the PRRD's COVID-19 Recovery Plan Policy has implemented the use of WorkSafeBC and Ministry of Health communications materials. Parks signage has been developed using BC Parks signage as a template.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

BC's Restart Plan Phases:

PHASE 1 (WHERE WE ARE TODAY)
ESSENTIAL SERVICES OPERATING DURING COVID-19
➤ Essential health care and health services
➤ Law enforcement, public safety, first responders and emergency response personnel
➤ Vulnerable population service providers
➤ Critical infrastructure
➤ Food and agriculture service providers
➤ Transportation
➤ Industry and manufacturing
➤ Sanitation
➤ Communications and information technology
➤ Financial institutions
➤ Non-health essential service providers

PHASE 2 (MID MAY ONWARDS)**UNDER ENHANCED PROTOCOLS**

- Restoration of health services
 - » Re-scheduling elective surgery
 - » Medically related services
 - dentistry, physiotherapy, registered massage therapy, chiropractors
 - physical therapy, speech therapy, and similar services
- Retail sector
- Hair salons/ barbers/other personal service establishments
- In-person counselling
- Restaurants, cafes, pubs – with sufficient distancing measures
- Museums, art galleries, libraries
- Office-based worksites
- Recreation/sports
- Parks, beaches and outdoor spaces
- Child care

PHASE 3 (JUNE-SEPTEMBER, IF TRANSMISSION RATE REMAINS LOW OR IN DECLINE)**UNDER ENHANCED PROTOCOLS**

- Hotels and resorts (June)
- Parks – broader reopening, including some overnight camping (June)
- Film industry – beginning with domestic productions (June/July)
- Select entertainment – movies and symphony, but not large concerts (July)
- Post-secondary education – with mix of online and in-class (September)
- K-12 education – partial return in June, full return in September

PHASE 4 (TBD)**CONDITIONAL ON AT LEAST ONE OF: WIDE VACCINATION; “COMMUNITY” IMMUNITY; BROAD SUCCESSFUL TREATMENTS.**

- Activities requiring large gatherings, such as:
 - » conventions
 - » live audience professional sports
 - » concerts
- International tourism

Attachments:

1. COVID-19 Recovery Plan Policy: May 25, 2020