



REPORT

To: Chair and Directors

Report Number: CS-BRD-002

From: Trish Morgan, General Manager of Community Services

Date: April 22, 2020

Subject: **COVID-19 Update #3**

RECOMMENDATION: [Corporate Unweighted]

That the Regional Board receive the April 22, 2020 report "COVID-19 Update #3" for information.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses found mostly in animals. In humans, they can cause diseases ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS). The disease caused by the new coronavirus has been named COVID-19. While many of the characteristics of COVID-19 are still unknown, mild to severe illness has been reported for confirmed cases.

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 April 21, 2020 according to [BC CDC](#))

- **1,724 confirmed cases**
 - 1,041 recovered
 - 87 deaths
 - Cases by region:
 - 715 in Fraser Health
 - 153 in Interior Health
 - 109 in Island Health
 - 40 in Northern Health
 - 707 in Vancouver Coastal Health
- [Projections](#)

Canada (as of April 21, 2020)

- Confirmed cases = 38,422
- Deaths = 1,834

Worldwide (as of April 7, 2020 from John's Hopkins University)

- Confirmed case = 2,584,724
- Deaths = 179,725
- Recovered = 696,948

Government of Canada

- Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) for small businesses provides loans, including forgivable loans, to commercial property owners who in turn will lower or forgo the rent of small businesses for the months of April (retroactive), May, and June
- Loosening criteria for small and medium sized businesses accessing loans
- Federal wage subsidy program criteria changed to only require 15% decline in revenue vs previously announced 30%
- Support for Indigenous businesses in the form of repayable and non-repayable loans for small and medium sized businesses
- \$9 billion for the Canada Emergency Student Benefit program

Government of BC

- Provincial State of Emergency extended until April 28, 2020
- All BC Parks closed; Recreation Sites that provide camping are closed until May 31st.
- Tax bill relief for commercial properties
- 2020 [Spring Flood Response Guidelines](#) issued with COVID-19 safe practices included
- [Increased support for rural, remote and Indigenous communities](#), which includes support and testing, and faster access to primary and urgent care
- Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms can be assessed and tested
- [Violation tickets](#) may now be issued by enforcement officers (provincial and local) for price gouging and selling medical supplies and other essential goods
- [BC COVID-19 dashboard](#) launched and available for public
- See attachment for all provincial supports as of April 17, 2020

Northern Health Authority

- Updated [COVID-19 Community Guide](#)

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
- The following PRRD parks have been closed until further notice:
 - Blackfoot Regional Park
 - Montney Centennial Regional Park
 - Minaker River Regional Park
 - Iver Johnson Community Park

Note: Sundance Lake and Spencer Tuck day-use sites remain open

- Continuing to work on business continuity planning
- Northwestel providing temporary internet usage relief and payment options (for all services), available on a case-by-case basis
- Pacific Northern Gas payment deferral options available

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Regional Board receive the April 22, 2020 report “COVID-19 Update #3” for discussion.
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):

No direct financial impact currently identified.

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 17, 2020: COVID-19 Provincial Supports