



City of Victoria COVID-19 Update

Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2020

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — Victoria City Council continues to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and look at ways to support residents and businesses.

Yesterday, the Capital Regional District learned it will receive federal funding through the Reaching Home program to help support the region's homeless population impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This funding will include \$917,880 through the Reaching Home Designated Communities program and \$394,972 through the Reaching Home Indigenous Homelessness program.

"Our vulnerable populations need our support more than ever," said Mayor Lisa Helps. "This federal funding will help us in our organizing work with community partners to provide more indoor shelters so that our most vulnerable citizens can be safe and practise social distancing."

This afternoon, the Province announced more support for essential workers who are in need of childcare. Starting today, essential workers can fill out a new "parent" form to identify their need for urgent childcare. Spaces will be prioritized for children whose parents work in public health and health services, social services, law enforcement, first responders and emergency response sectors.

Additional spaces will then be given to families working in other crucial roles, defined as essential service workers. For more information, visit: gov.bc.ca/essential-service-child-care or call 1.888.338.6622 and select "option 4".

"The provincial government's childcare support for essential workers will help alleviate a lot of the stress and burden that our frontline workers and their families must be facing right now," said Mayor Helps.

The public is invited to tune into the Mayor's Facebook Live weekday updates at 2:30 p.m. on the City of Victoria Facebook page. To learn more about the City's response to COVID-19, visit victoria.ca/covid19response.

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