



City of Victoria COVID-19 Update

Date: Friday, April 3, 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.

This morning, the Prime Minister announced \$100 million dollars to meet urgent food security needs across the country to improve access to food for Canadians facing social, economic and health impacts of COVID-19. In addition, the Canada Child Benefit that was scheduled for May will be sent out this month and GST credits will roll out sooner than scheduled.

Yesterday, the province announced a new Economic Recovery Task Force to respond to emerging needs and to plan for longer-term economic recovery. The Task Force is comprised of cabinet ministers, senior government staff, representatives from business, labour, First Nations, and the non-profit sector.

The province is also providing an additional \$1.5 million to supplement the Indigenous Emergency Assistance Fund for Indigenous students who are experiencing an unexpected financial emergency that may affect their ability to finish their studies. Indigenous students can contact the Indigenous Student Service Centre on campus, which will help with the application process.

“I want to commend the federal government for ensuring that food and financial support for families experiencing financial hardship will be readily available,” said Mayor Helps. “And I’m very pleased to hear that the province has created a dedicated team to oversee B.C.’s emerging needs and economic recovery in response to COVID-19, and for providing additional emergency funding assistance for Indigenous post-secondary students.”

As of today, 102 motel rooms have been filled by people who were previously sleeping outdoors. BC Housing continues to look for more options to move people inside so that they can be healthy and safe.

“This is a good first step, but as Dr. Richard Stanwick, Island Health’s Chief Medical Health Officer advised during our daily call today, the goal is to get everyone inside. This is important for the health of vulnerable populations and the health of our community,” added Mayor Helps.

For information on the City’s response to COVID-19, 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, and to visit victoria.ca/covid19response. The next update will be at 2:30 p.m. on Monday, April 6.

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