



City of Victoria COVID-19 Update

Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2020

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — Victoria City Council continues to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and explore ways to support the community.

Today, the Prime Minister announced a boost to the Canada Summer Jobs program which helps students find employment. The federal government will offer up to a 100 per cent wage subsidy for employers and will open up the program to part-time jobs with the end date extended to February 28, 2021.

Effective immediately, all BC Parks are now closed until further notice. This temporary measure means public and vehicle access is prohibited. All trails, roads, day-use areas, beaches, lakes, boat launches, and backcountry areas are closed to the public. All camping is banned until May 31.

CRD and City parks are staying open at this time. The risk of transmission outdoors is much less than the risk indoors. As directed by B.C. Public Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry, if you are going for a walk, don't congregate or gather in groups. Keep a two-metre physical distance and be courteous of others.

In addition, at today's CRD Board meeting, Chair Colin Plant asked all residents to remain in their home municipalities and to use the parks and trail systems there.

"It's going to be a beautiful holiday weekend and I understand the desire to get outdoors. We can get those walks in if we all do our part to look after each other by staying in our own neighbourhoods and keeping a safe distance from others when outside," said Mayor Lisa Helps.

In addition to discussing the 2020 Budget tomorrow, Council will consider options for adjusting City parkade and on-street meter rates, as well as time-limited zones for the month of April. Parking revenue plays a significant role in the City's overall budget and is currently down due to the pandemic.

The parking staff report is available online and the community is invited to tune into the live webcast of the Committee of the Whole meeting tomorrow at 9 a.m. at victoria.ca.

Please note that the Mayor's Facebook Live update will take place at 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 9. There will be no updates on Friday, April 10 or Monday, April 13 for Easter. For information on the City's response to COVID-19, visit victoria.ca/covid19response.

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For More Information:

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