



## City of Victoria COVID-19 Update

Date: Monday, April 27, 2020

For Immediate Release

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

Today, businesses can apply for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS). Companies that qualify will receive a subsidy worth 75 per cent of each employee's wages, up to \$847 per week, retroactive from March 15 to June 6. Since the CEWS opened this morning, more than 10,000 businesses have applied.

The City is beginning to turn its attention to recovery and reinvention as the federal and provincial governments begin to look ahead on how they will reopen the economy. Mayor Lisa Helps is participating in the South Island Prosperity Partnership's *Rising Economy Task Force* and will be revisiting the City's draft economic action plan *Victoria 3.0* in light of the pandemic.

"All the hard work to flatten the curve is working and it's encouraging to hear our public health officials talk about how and when we can get going again," said Mayor Lisa Helps. "Council and City staff will be looking at what we can do to support businesses as they re-open, to help residents stay connected, to continue to take action on climate change, and to reimagine public spaces in a post-COVID environment."

This is a difficult time for many who rely on the City's recreation facilities and programs to maintain their physical, mental and emotional health. Today the City is launching *Fun for Life GO*, an online recreation resource to help people stay healthy and well.

*Fun for Life GO* combines ideas from the City's experts in fitness, programming for children and older adults, and outdoor recreation, with links to other helpful resources. Staff from the Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre are creating videos from home to stay connected with residents while recreation facilities remain closed.

The first videos feature two strengthening exercises you can do from home without special fitness equipment, two interactive games to keep kids active and engaged at home, and 10 ideas to stay active outdoors while practising physical distancing. New videos will be added regularly. For more information, visit: [victoria.ca/recreation](https://victoria.ca/recreation).

"This new online resource is a creative way to stay connected and to continue to support residents' health and well-being during this extended time at home," added Mayor Helps.

The Mayor's Facebook Live COVID-19 updates will now take place on Mondays and Fridays at 2:30 p.m. on the City of Victoria Facebook page. For more information on the City's response to the pandemic, visit: [victoria.ca/covid19response](https://victoria.ca/covid19response).

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