



## City of Victoria COVID-19 Update

Date: Friday, July 10, 2020

For Immediate Release

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

Yesterday, Council approved the allocation of \$280,000 to the City's Festival Investment Grants for 2020. This year, the intent is to increase recipients' capacity to pay artists, innovate in order to connect audiences to cultural content, and to simply 'keep the lights on' until they can once again present to live audiences.

"The Festival Investment Grant program was established to create and sustain a healthy community, vibrant downtown core and enhance economic development," said Mayor Lisa Helps. "I'm pleased that we're able to support the many festival and events that have been financially impacted by the pandemic as they pivot to create new options for our residents."

The Province has recently extended its state of emergency – a good reminder that we are still in the midst of a pandemic.

Earlier this week, the BC government also announced it will continue to offer COVID-19 financial support for income and disability clients. They are extending the \$300 monthly crisis supplements for low-income seniors for another two months. There is no need to reapply.

Council also directed staff to move forward with the next phase of projects in the City's AAA bike network, which will add another eight kilometres to this infrastructure in three new corridors of the city.

"What's exciting about these corridors is that they're really going to expand safer cycling outside of the downtown core and into neighbourhoods so people will be able to reach more destinations and travel all the way through Victoria by bike. Once constructed, 67 per cent of the AAA bike network will be complete," added Mayor Helps.

The City has developed the *Creative Spotlight: Locals Supporting Locals*, a 12-week series on Instagram which showcases the favourite local places and spaces around the city of local artists and makers. This week's *Creative Spotlight* features award-winning and best-selling author Monique Gray Smith. For more information, visit: [victoria.ca/creativespotlight](https://victoria.ca/creativespotlight).

"I invite you to check out our new *Creative Spotlight* series to see where local artists and makers love to go for take-out, what their favourite art activities are, and where to find great local products and more," said Mayor Helps.

The Mayor's Facebook Live COVID-19 update will resume taking place on Fridays at 1 p.m. on the City of Victoria Facebook page. For more information on the City's response and recovery to the pandemic, visit: [victoria.ca/covid19response](https://victoria.ca/covid19response).

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