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March 20, 2020

Update No. 1

Message from Mayor Bill Beamish and Councillors

Subject: COVID-19 Response

To the Gibsons community,

Thank you for the many acts of kindness, support and initiatives that have been taken by you and your neighbours during this difficult and stressful time. It has been encouraging to witness the significant changes that have occurred in Gibsons in response to the Provincial Health Emergency that was declared this past Monday.

Our Town office has implemented many new procedures and protocols this week, including closing our offices to the public and curtailing our non-essential services somewhat. However, please know that, even if you do not see them, staff are still working and all essential services will be maintained.

We receive regular updates from Vancouver Coastal Health on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and our coastal elected representatives are in daily contact as needed.

Additionally, the SCR D Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) has been activated to coordinate information and messaging to the community and each community is providing information about local activities and conditions.

To see regular bulletins from the EOC, which include information from local organizations such as BC Ferries, BC Transit and Vancouver Coastal Health, please visit: <https://www.scrd.ca/covid-19-updates>.

For current information on building closures and service interruptions within the Town of Gibsons, please go to www.gibsons.ca/covid-19. We are doing our best to update this page as events unfold.

There is a great deal of information circulating on various websites, email and social media accounts. Please ensure you are getting your facts from a reliable source, such as [Vancouver Coastal Health](#), or the [BC Centre for Disease Control](#). Our COVID-19 webpage also provides links to trusted websites with good local information, such as that created by [the Coast Reporter](#).

The most important message that I want to leave you with is that Coastal Health made it very clear on our conference call today that there are almost certainly COVID-19 positive people in our communities and we must assume that if we are out and about we will be in proximity to them.

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"Nature is our most valuable asset"

That is why it is so critical to self-isolate at home and if, you must go out, that you practice social distancing by remaining at least 6 feet apart. I understand that is not always easy to do but it is essential if we are going to “flatten the curve” and slow the spread of this virus so as not to overwhelm our healthcare services.

According to the Government of Canada, Social Distancing means:

“Making changes in your everyday routines in order to minimize close contact with others, including: avoiding crowded places and non-essential gatherings; avoiding common greetings, such as handshakes; limiting contact with people at higher risk (e.g. older adults and those in poor health); and keeping a distance of at least 2 arms lengths (approximately 2 metres) from others, as much as possible.”

Please follow these guidelines.

Finally, if you operate a business, please consider the welfare of our community and manage your business to ensure that your customers and staff are able to practice social distancing. Additionally, you may need to consider alternative ways to provide service or even close your doors, at least until our public health officials confirm that it is again safe to interact a little more normally.

Thank you again for all you are doing to help keep your fellow community members healthy and cared for. We will continue to update you as circumstances require.

I also invite you to contact me directly by email at mayor@gibsons.ca or by phone at 604.989.2364.

Mayor and Councillors
Town of Gibsons

