



## NEWS RELEASE

March 31, 2020  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### BC's Sunshine Coast asks visitors to stay home... for now

Sechelt, BC – Due to the COVID-19 health crisis, the Sunshine Coast Emergency Operations Centre, representing the Sunshine Coast Regional District, District of Sechelt, Town of Gibsons and partnering with the shíshálh nation, are asking people considering visiting the Sunshine Coast to come another time.

The Sunshine Coast is a very popular destination for tourists and a location of many secondary homes and cottages. However, at this time people are asked to heed the advice of Canada's chief public health officer and stay home. Health care facilities and other essential services are only able to provide for the needs of current residents. An influx of visitors could strain the system and put people at risk.

Sunshine Coast Regional District chair, Lori Pratt stated, "Our economy depends on our tourists and, under normal circumstances, we would love to host them, but not right now. We encourage people to come and see us when the world is safer for all of us."

Emergency Operation Centre director, Dean McKinley stated, "We didn't make this decision lightly, but we are concerned about an influx of people. Our rural communities have limited capacity to accommodate sudden increases in healthcare and supply-chain demands."

The COVID-19 situation is actively monitored, and the Sunshine Coast will be open for visitors as soon as it is safe to do so.

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