



TOWN OF GIBSONS

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Town of Gibsons Taking Steps to Help Prevent Spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19)

March 13, 2020 – While the Sunshine Coast currently remains relatively unaffected by the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19), the Town of Gibsons is implementing a series of proactive measures to help slow or prevent the spread of the disease.

For now, Town Hall will remain open and regular operating hours are in place. Citizens are asked to please conduct business with the Town by email or phone as much as possible. Additionally, measures such as the increased cleaning of public spaces, visual reminders to staff re) proper preventative protocol and increased use of gloves for certain tasks (such as handling money) have been implemented. Emanuel Machado, the Town's CAO, will be working from home for the next two weeks, following a recent trip to South Africa.

At present, Council meetings and public hearings will proceed as planned, with gallery seats set apart at twice the regular distance. Any residents who have flu-like symptoms, who may have come into contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, or who have recently returned from travel outside of Canada are asked not to attend. Audio recordings of the meetings are available at www.gibsons.ca/audio-files and the minutes for all Council meetings can be found at gibsons.civicweb.net/portal/.

Non-essential meetings have been cancelled or postponed, including the Gibsons' Community Leaders Meeting, which had been set for March 31, 2020.

"As the Leaders Meeting was for informational purposes, and not decision-making, we believe the responsible thing to do is to postpone it," said Mayor Bill Beamish. *"Instead, we will focus our resources on helping the community respond appropriately to COVID-19."*

"We are closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation in British Columbia and will adjust the Town of Gibsons' response as required," said Mr. Machado. *"Currently, our focus is on implementing the steps our health officials recommend, in order to help slow the spread of the disease. We ask that all citizens take precautions not just to avoid getting infected with, or spreading COVID-19, but also to avoid burdening our healthcare system during the pandemic."*

Updates on how COVID-19 is impacting the Town's operations will be shared on a dedicated webpage (www.gibsons.ca/covid-19), through the Town's digital newsletter and via social media. Links to recommended online resources, such as Vancouver Coastal Health, Health Canada and the BC Centre for Disease Control may also be found on the webpage.

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"Nature is our most valuable asset"

