



## TOWN OF GIBSONS

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### GIBSONS LAUNCHES BUSINESS WATCH PROGRAM; SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

April 2, 2020 – The Town of Gibsons today launched a Business Watch Program, which aims to provide an extra level of support to small business in the community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Under the direction and control of the Director of Corporate Services, volunteers will monitor municipal commercial areas from their vehicles and report any suspicious or criminal activity they observe to the RCMP. They will not become actively involved in any situations they see.

*“We recognize that many businesses have closed temporarily, to conform with an order by our provincial health officer for all non-essential enterprises to stop operating,” said Mayor Bill Beamish. “We also understand that the resources of the RCMP and our lone bylaw enforcement officer are limited. Our new Business Watch Program is intended to put additional eyes and ears into areas that may now be unusually quiet and therefore vulnerable to property crimes or mischief.”*

Volunteers must be at least 19 years of age, not be under investigation by any police force, hold a valid BC Driver’s Licence (if they are acting as the driver of a volunteer vehicle) and consent to a criminal record check. They will be reimbursed for the cost of the criminal check and mileage expenses, and the Town will cover insurance expenses associated with the program.

A Chief Volunteer will act as a liaison between the Director of Corporate Services and the volunteer teams. Shift length and frequency are still to be determined.

An application to volunteer with the Gibsons Business Watch, as well as the program’s Terms of Reference, which provides details about the structure of the program, its operating procedures and remuneration, are available at [gibsons.ca/gibsons-business-watch](https://gibsons.ca/gibsons-business-watch).

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**TOWN OF GIBSONS**

*“Nature is our most valuable asset”*

