

April 15, 2020

We will continue to keep you informed as often as possible through daily updates (Mon – Fri) which are also archived on the [directors portal](#) (SRD Directors access only).

This is an internal document only and public information is listed at www.srd.ca/COVID-19.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The COVID-19 Pandemic – Legal and Risk Management Issues for Local Governments – April 1st Webinar

As there were a number of questions that they could not get to during the broadcast, Peter Johnson and Jeff Locke of Stewart McDannold Stuart have answered them in the attached document.

The link provided in the bulletin yesterday did not work, *[please click here to see the document](#)*.

MESSAGE FROM THE CAO

Burning Prohibitions in the Region

Reminder – effective tomorrow Thursday April 16 at Noon.

Implemented by Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources, most open burning activities will be prohibited throughout British Columbia to reduce the likelihood of human-caused wildfires, although campfires will still be allowed.

The following activities will be prohibited, and restrictions remain in effect until public is otherwise notified:

- Category 2 open fires – a fire, excluding a campfire, that burns piled material no larger than two metres high and three metres wide, or grass over an area less than 0.2 hectares (2000 square metres) in size;
- Category 3 open fires – a fire that burns material in piles larger than two metres high and three metres wide, windrows, or grass over an larger than 0.2 hectares (2000 square metres) in size.
- Resource Management open fires;
- The use of fireworks;
- The use of sky lanterns; and
- The use of burn barrels or burn cages of any size or description (except when used for a campfire).

These prohibitions apply to all public and private land within British Columbia, unless specified otherwise (e.g., in a local government bylaw).

For the Strathcona Regional District's Electoral Areas, this prohibition directly applies to:

- North Quadra Island (outside of the Improvement District) and the remainder of Electoral Area C (Quadra & Discovery Islands)
- All of Electoral Area D (Oyster Bay / Buttle Lake)
- All of Electoral Area B (Cortes Island)
- All of Electoral Area A (Sayward Valley)

The areas mentioned above all fall under the jurisdiction of the BC Wildfire Act with the exception of the southern portion of Electoral Area D which falls under the jurisdiction of the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) through the Black Creek / Oyster Bay Fire Protection area. The CVRD will be following this burning ban.

A zoomable map of the fire protection areas is available online at www.srd.ca/fire-protection-map

For more information about the different categories of open burning, please visit : www.gov.bc.ca/openfireregs and a map of the affected areas is listed online at <http://ow.ly/8uct30qvSv2>.

UPDATE FROM SRD EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- Coordinated a regional order of personal protective equipment (gloves, ear loops, N95 masks) for fire department medical responses and critical infrastructure operators. Will arrive between April 21-28.
- Regional sanitizer spray hand sanitizer has arrived and is being distributed to communities
- Coordinating long term housing possibilities for Pacific Heights evacuees
- 4 applications have been received for SRD cares program and 1 application has been approved by EMBC

PRIME MINISTER ADDRESS TO THE NATION (RECAP)

Apr 15 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LJa1bxAvzxA>

- Mention the senior vulnerable populations, are our war heroes, those who built our country
- Looking to boost wages for care aides earning under \$2,500 a month
- Expansion of the CERB for those earning up to \$1,000/month – seasonal workers, p/t workers, volunteer firefighters, contractors
- If you earn \$1,000 or less a month you can apply
- Mental health portal now on Canada.ca – if you are finding it challenging now reach out, they are there to help
- Test Kits are now being produced in New Brunswick by LuminUltra, they will supply the test chemicals needed, new swabs have been received

FEDERAL MINISTERS ADDRESS (RECAP)

Apr 15 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IEx15CXhf0w>

Dr. Tam

- 27,557 cases, 954 deaths, 462,000 tests so far with 6% positive
- Cautious optimism on epidemic slowing
- Early on cases doubled every 3 days, now we are seeing a doubling every 10 days

Minister Hajdu

- Mental health as so difficult to maintain routines-people are living through stress, anxiety & loneliness and are struggling
- Wellness together Canada has launched. An online peer community for self help, sessions with professionals and coping information

Minister Qualtrough

- Expansion of CERB to make it more inclusive

- Allow those earning under \$1000/month access-those who have exhausted EI benefits since Jan, seasonal workers who may not have a job to go to, volley firefighters, artists, contractors etc.
- Also looking to top up wages for Essential Workers earning less than \$2500 per month

PREMIER HORGAN (RECAP)

Apr 15 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kEgVKHac6tc>

- Since implementing the requirement to self isolate when returning to BC 4,700 people have returned, of that 84 are being supervised by Federal Government
- Challenges still remain, maintain the course
- PPE issues are being resolved-250,000 N95 masks received from AB
- Recovery Plans, we are not making that determination yet, we will keep looking at the science and evidence as it emerges, listening to health authorities
- Developing proposals to help Municipalities and Regional Districts with loss of revenues that keep day to day operations going
- We are making this up as we go, as problems emerge
- The BC State of Emergency has been extended for 2 more weeks, until April 28

DR BONNIE HENRY & MINISTER ADRIAN DIX ADDRESS (RECAP)

Apr 15 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fnz0TaCfPi8>

Dr Henry

44 new cases, 1561 total, 955 recovered

670 – VCH

623 – Fraser

92 – Vancouver Island

46 – Interior Health

30 – Northern

131 in hospital 68-Fraser, 39-VCH, 11-Interior, 9-Van Island, 4-Northern

3 new deaths, 75 total

- Resources being created for communities all over the Province
- Concerns you may have about going to hospitals and seeking care-it is safe to go, safe to call 911, safe to continue regular appointments, immunizations can keep happening and are important to protect against other diseases
- Now more than ever we need to support one another-there is stress and anxiety being felt over finances, schooling etc.
- We are doing ok here in BC but we have to hold the line, its going to be some weeks before we let up even a little bit

Minister Dix

- 4,632 beds available, 3,595 emergency visits Apr 14
- March 16 to Apr 12 – 98,552 urgent and emergency surgeries happened
- Upcoming virtual town halls with Health Officers and members of government
- No briefing tomorrow, Modeling will happen on Friday

COVID-19 INFO: LINKS, RESOURCES, NEWS RELEASES & MORE...

Posted on the [Directors Portal](#) or <http://www.srd.ca>