



## News Release

For immediate release

### Mayor Facio's Message March 26, 2020 Update

Good afternoon everyone:

By now you may have heard that all municipal States of Local Emergency, with the exception of the one in Vancouver, have been suspended by BC's Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, the Honourable Mike Farnworth. Minister Farnworth is seeking a stronger more unified approach to combatting the COVID 19 virus outbreak.

Before I talk more about that, I want to assure you that nothing will change in Harrison Hot Springs with respect to our measures to deter visitors at this time and to discourage any non-essential travel to our community. Our barricades and signage will remain in place, our washroom facilities, exercise equipment and playgrounds will remain closed and we will also remove the portable washrooms that were on site last weekend. Due to the difficulties associated with the COVID19 outbreak, these units cannot be properly maintained and they will be removed by the contractor. This is being done to protect your health and the health of the community. Please remember to use your washroom at home before you venture out for a brief period of exercise.

Although the suspension of the State of Emergency limits the Village's ability to seek funding from the Province, Minister Farnworth has told all BC Mayors that RCMP resources will be strengthened to enable them to enforce the orders of BC's Provincial Health Officer, including the prohibition on gatherings of more than 50 people and on the need to practise social distancing. Our own bylaw enforcement service will also be empowered to support the orders of the Provincial Health Officer. We intend to put these measures in place in time for the Easter long weekend.

For any seniors out there who may need additional support during this time of social isolation, please call the Seniors Helpline by dialing 211. Be patient, circuits are busy these days, and it might take some time to get through.

Finally, I want to thank all the citizens of Harrison Hot Springs for their forbearance during this difficult time. Thank you for also continuing to follow the orders of the Provincial Health Officer and please stay safe, look after each other, call, email or text your friends and neighbours and be kind to one another. God bless you all.

March 26, 2020                      Harrison Hot Springs, BC

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