



## News Release

For immediate release

### Mayor Facio's Message to Residents

April 16, 2020

Dear Residents:

On behalf of Council, I would like to thank you all for taking the Provincial Health Orders seriously and maintaining your physical distance from one another. According to the Provincial Health Officer, the curve (projected number of COVID-19 cases) is very slowly beginning to level out. Unfortunately, there are still reported deaths and we send our deepest condolences to family and friends from other locations in BC. We must continue to be diligent and not let our guard down.

This past weekend we prepared for visitors who were not following the recommendations to stay home. I am happy to report that while there were some, the Village was not inundated with visitors. A large majority of vehicles that drove through town were heading east, away from us. Of the visitors who did stop here, the majority were keeping their physical distance from anyone they did not travel with. Our Bylaw Enforcement Officers were on duty for all 4 days of the long weekend and we thank them for being here. We also saw extra RCMP presence in the Village and on the lake and wish to express our thanks to them as well.

Some residents have expressed their concern about private campgrounds. However, the majority of sites in the Village are owned sites and country club memberships. Although the Provincial Health Officer has advised against non-essential travel, including to secondary homes, no order has come forward for them to close. The East Sector Regional park has been closed by the Fraser Valley Regional District and signs are posted at the entrance and highways. If you see any activity that should be reported to the RCMP, please call the non-emergency number 604-796-2211.

I am sending out a special message to the community to ask that you **please support the businesses who are offering takeout, convenience stores, gas, and off sales**. These business people are struggling and we need them all to fully open when this pandemic is over. Shop and eat locally, let's all help.

While I am working from home, I still continue with staff on conference calls with the Province and Fraser Health. The Village Office is available by phone or email if you require assistance. For now, our Council Chambers and meetings are closed to the public. The Province has taken extraordinary measures for your protection by issuing a Ministerial Order (M083). This order allows for Council Meetings to take place via teleconferencing. While this order is in affect, Mayor and Council will attend meetings by phone and staff will attend from the Village Office. The agenda, as always, will be posted on our website and to ensure the public receives timely information of Council business, draft minutes of these meetings will also be made available on the Village's website. The Agassiz-Harrison Observer has also indicated that they will attend the meeting and we thank them in advance for helping us keep the public informed during this transitional time. We look forward to installing a new digital camera in our Chambers in the near future, which should at least afford us the opportunity to share videos of Council meetings until such time as we can once again convene in person.

To all the frontline workers and Dr. Henry, thank you for your dedication in fighting COVID-19. To our Village staff and crew, thank you for maintaining our services at this difficult time.

Stay safe. Keep your distance. Wash your hands and do not touch your face. Together we can beat this.

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