



News Release

For immediate release

Mayor Facio's Message to Residents and Businesses

December 2, 2021

Dear Residents and Business Owners:

The relentless storms, caused by a series of atmospheric river events that began on November 14th, have created challenges for many people and businesses in our community. On behalf of Council, our hearts go out all those affected in Harrison Hot Springs and across the province. If you need assistance, both residents and businesses are encouraged to review the eligibility criteria for Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) and apply as soon as possible. Please contact the Disaster Financial Assistance team for more information at DFA@gov.bc.ca or 1-888-257-4777.

I want to thank our utilities crew who have worked around the clock over the last two weeks to ensure that essential services were uninterrupted. The wastewater treatment plant and flood pumps remained fully operational throughout these extraordinary storms. You may find the videos on our YouTube channel for these facilities interesting: <https://bit.ly/3lovck0> Throughout these storm events, curbside collection of garbage, recycling, and organics also remained uninterrupted thanks to GFL Environmental and their drivers.

The Village Council and staff are grateful for your understanding and support during this trying time. Your cooperation in limiting wastewater use while our system, like those in other communities, operated under challenging conditions made a difference. I also want to thank the community volunteers who showed up with shovels in hand to assist neighbours in filling sand bags. Our gratitude also goes to Agassiz Ready Mix who donated the sand to our community and to their mechanic who drove the truck when they did not have a driver available. If you would like to give kudos to any of our staff, please use this forum: www.getintoitharrison.ca/staff-shout-outs.

Please take caution and avoid any Village greenways or trails that are closed due to the extreme weather we are receiving. Refrain from entering hazardous, impacted, and affected areas for photo, media, and video opportunities, as well as environmentally and culturally sensitive places of significance.

Please support our local businesses this season. With travel restrictions and closed highways, many businesses have lost their customer base. Please know that I am advocating to the Province for additional financial assistance to ensure that our business sector is better positioned to welcome visitors back when it is safe to do

so. As we have been reminded, conditions can change rapidly and this is a good reminder to be prepared in case of emergencies. Are you prepared? Take our quiz to find out. <https://getintoitharrison.ca/emergency-preparedness>

Be calm, be kind, and stay safe everyone!

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