



City of Revelstoke

P.O. Box 170, Revelstoke, British Columbia V0E 2S0
revelstoke.ca

May 5, 2020

Mayors Address to the Community

Good Morning Everyone,

Happy Cinco de Mayo. I have several items that I want to address today so I'll just dive in.

I am so proud of the good work coming out of our Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our team in the EOC recently included a Phased Recovery Plan as an objective in moving toward the new normal. The Province is expected to announce its strategy to ease restrictions this week and we plan to work in concert with their recommendations when developing our municipal plan. While the recovery plan is in its infancy and the nature of this disease is continually changing, expect announcements in the coming weeks on how the City will proceed. Initial recovery phases being considered are the opening of City owned parks, green spaces, and playground equipment, and the opening of City Hall to the public. Future phases will be determined as the Public Health Orders are amended. The development of the recovery plan will include the phased approach and will ensure we do our part in maintaining physical distancing recommendations.

Some of our parks staff have been recalled to maintain parks and fields, and to prepare for their eventual opening. I know how eager we all are to get out there and enjoy the nicer weather and outdoor beauty that surrounds our community; however, Staff activity in the parks does not mean that the restrictions have been lifted. Our parks will remain closed to the public until an official announcement has been made.

DEVELOPMENT
SERVICES

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development@revelstoke.ca

PUBLIC WORKS

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works@revelstoke.ca

FINANCE

(250) 837-2161
finance@revelstoke.ca

FIRE RESCUE
SERVICES

(250) 837-2884
fire@revelstoke.ca

PARKS, RECREATION
& CULTURE

(250) 837-9351
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CORPORATE
ADMINISTRATION

(250) 837-2911
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COMMUNITY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

(250) 837-5345
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Let's talk about the roundabout! We've heard your concerns and are putting your safety first! City staff are working hard with the contractor, consultant and local companies to ensure the safety of our residents and visitors during the construction period. Please obey all construction signage. In an effort to improve safety for motorists and pedestrians, additional new signs are being made and should be in place in the near future. The construction zone detour area is being amended to deal with the big trucks and the entire detour area will be monitored regularly by enforcement officers and the RCMP. Plan ahead and be sure to give yourself some extra time to get to your destination. For your safety and the safety of your friends, neighbours and family members, please note the following:

- construction zone detour speed limit is 30 km/hr;
- parking in alleys or using them as shortcuts is not permitted as it can create public safety issues;
- no parking zones have been established adjacent to the construction site and along the detour route;
- avoid trespassing on private property including CP Rail lands;
- keep out of the construction area as the project also involves replacing and upgrading underground infrastructure. Replacing this infrastructure requires the digging of holes, and we would hate to see someone fall and get hurt.
- And remember, do not cut the corners as sight lines may be obscured and again please slow down there are many pedestrians and cyclists in these areas as these are residential areas.

Residents and businesses continue to make me proud to be a part of this community. As we prepare for the new normal, I see many residents doing their part to maintain public health recommendations and obey orders – in our stores, on our trails, and throughout the community. Businesses are working out details on how to provide their goods and services in a safe environment, whether it be local delivery or limited entry, you've all done a fantastic job.

I am happy to advise that City business has not stopped since the closure of our public facilities and Council meetings will revert back to their regular schedule of every second and fourth Tuesday of the month beginning on May 12, 2020. Meetings continue to be recorded and posted on our YouTube Channel with a Council Highlights summary posted on the website and social media platforms after the meeting for those of you that missed the livestream.

Departmental updates were presented to Council during the Special Council meeting held on Thursday, April 30th. Council supported a restricted opening of the Revelstoke Golf Club. At this time, we ask that only local residents use the facility.

Bylaw Enforcement has been working to support the Public Health Officer orders and recommendations.

The Community Economic Development team have been working overtime to prepare economic recovery plans and obtain grant funding to move projects forward.

Permits continue to be reviewed and issued by Development Services and new policies are now in place to carry out essential community services while protecting staff and applicants. The provincial government has just given municipalities permission to use electronics to conduct Public Hearings so we will be looking at how to implement that moving forward, if required.

Public Works crews are back at work completing winter cleanup and are preparing our community for the spring.

Engineering continues to work on infrastructure related capital projects such as the roundabout and the Lowertown improvements creating jobs that will boost our local economy.

The RCMP are currently running at full force with regular duties and enforcing Public Health orders. Please remember to slow down and show kindness to others.

The Fire Department is continuing to support our community with Interim Fire Chief Dave Mohn taking the lead while the City begins to search for a permanent replacement.

This week, we invited the public to submit questions for my address to the City's communication team at communications@revelstoke.ca. We received a number of inquiries that have been addressed throughout this announcement.

One inquiry received was in relation to whether Revelstoke would take advantage of new Federal policies on handguns. It is premature to comment at this point without proper consultation with other levels of government and the RCMP. Thank you for taking the time to engage in our community – keep those emails coming!

On a personal note, after the relaxation of requirements for COVID-19 testing, I was tested due to mild flu-like symptoms and am grateful to announce that the test was negative. The results are not what I want to focus on here, except to say they gave me the confidence that I had not infected others. If you have concerns and/or symptoms, please call the local Testing and Assessment Centre at 250-814-2230 to arrange for an appointment.

Last week I spoke with a person in another community who incredulously stated 'we don't need to physical distance, here in our community, as we do not have any cases'. My response was, 'that is the very reason that you need to physical distance' to continue to keep your community safe. Physical distancing is critical in keeping us safe and allowing us to move forward by opening our community back up.

There is a quote by Matt Goerzen of the Brandon Sun newspaper that speaks volumes to life in this pandemic "No human being does well when isolated from others. We all need to be a part of a community in order to thrive. And therein lives our responsibility and our humanity.'

Again, I thank you, the residents of Revelstoke, for the continued effort to 'hold the line', continue to physical distance and keep this virus from spreading throughout our community. We will get through this together.